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Raworth  
Story

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# *The Haworth Story*

*Kleen McCulloch Thyfe.*



# *The Haworth Story*

*by Helen McCulloch Phyfe*



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## *Preface*

*I had never planned to write this biography of my home town. In fact, it might never have happened had it not appeared as a service to the Haworth Library. The Library has been as dear to me as my own child and, like a doting parent, I have indulged its wishes.*

*So, out of a welter of memories, out of the clippings from Scrap Books, out of the remembrances of friends, out of a treasure house of salvaged bits—old newspapers, council records, old “minutes,” maps and programs—these chapters have been assembled. To many people I owe sincere gratitude, for facts and data, for confirmation and correction, for assistance and encouragement. To Edwin Emrich, William Wilson, I. A. Carlson, I acknowledge particular indebtedness.*

*Because much of the early history, though of great interest, is not of official record, it could be obtained only from those whose memories could stretch beyond the happenings of their own lives into the past of their forebears. In this connection, I would thank particularly George Acken, Mrs. Alice Randall Bogert, Ira Christie, Henry F. Copeland, Mrs. Ethel Devlin, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur LeCompte, Armin Lobeck, Mrs. Gretta Ward Mount, Mrs. Cora Bell Oren and my husband Benjamin P. Phyfe.*

*For the assistance from maps, deeds, and genealogies, I am grateful to Allan Kobackin of the Bergen County Clerk's office in Hackensack and to Peter Kipp Clough in Englewood, and to the Librarians in the Englewood and New York City Public Libraries. For facts relative to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, I thank Mrs. Clifford Curtis, Curator of the Von Steuben House in New Bridge and to the Bergen County Historical Society.*

*Most of all am I indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Schmidt. It was their affection for Haworth which led them to be interested in the story I was compiling for the Library. This interest grew into a compelling desire to benefit not only the Library and the Borough but also that other great institution so valuable to Haworth, the Englewood Hospital. Thus, through their public spirited enthusiasm and their faith in my devotion to our mutual interests, they backed my efforts and enlarged my canvass, bringing to fruition this project to increase the usefulness of both the Englewood Hospital and the Haworth Library.*

*It is a matter of great pride to me that I have had the assistance of Rae and Fred Schmidt. To Rae, I owe many thanks for patient proofreading and the detailed work of corroborating names and dates and for much more than the physical labor involved . . . for that intangible something which spelled her steady, quiet insistence that there was value in what I was trying to do. To Fred, I owe both tribute and gratitude—tribute to his love and knowledge of the Graphic Arts; gratitude for his vision and generosity by which this shell of words and paragraphs is being transformed into a beautiful printed reality. I speak in great admiration and appreciation.*

*Yet, as these pages go to print, I confess I feel like the mother of the bride-to-be who has just mailed the last of the wedding invitations. Without doubt, an unforgivable omission has been made. From carelessness? Indeed, no. From disinterest? Assuredly not. Rather from sheer weight of material that one wants to include. So, in the hope that you who read are understanding of the difficulties involved, I submit this imperfect but cherished story of Haworth, the small New Jersey town where I spent most of my life and where it was my privilege to be associated with many wonderful people.*

*I dedicate this story of Haworth to the children of Haworth who will now pick up the torch to "carry on".*

HELEN McCULLOCH PHYFE



## CHAPTER ONE

# *In the Beginning*

1680-1879

*A*GAINST the backdrop of the Palisades, on a stage stretching across the northeastern corner of New Jersey, now called "Bergen County," there began in the days of the first Colonial settlements a drama of achievement and expansion. Scene after scene moved across the stage, each contributing to the development and to the climax. It seems true, as Shakespeare wrote in *As You Like It* that "All the world's a stage and all the men and women players. They have their exits and their entrances and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages." (Infancy, Puberty, Romantic period, Manhood, etc.) And it seems possible that an assessment can be made of the "seven ages" which this corner section of New Jersey has lived through from its beginning to the present era.

In these hills and valleys, undulating from the Hudson River to the Hackensack River, have grown those diverse elements which have made New Jersey a part of the "melting pot" so famous as a characteristic of our American heritage. The conflicts of those diverse strains, Dutch, English, French, Polish, of the first

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New Jersey settlements have been welded together through thrift, industry, and faith into an amalgamation of finest Americanism. In the process there have been both pitfalls and setbacks, yet the end product is a consummation worthy of pride. While the whole of the New Jersey northeastern strip has had its notable exponents in the news items of both yesterday and today, the heart of its message of progress may best be proclaimed by a detailed concern with a local community which could be considered typical. Typical yet sufficiently unique to warrant a studious close-up. A local community which, born with the combination of several cultures, has lived to the fruition of its dreams, now to be met with an array of problems stemming from the very seeds which gave it stamina and ability to grow! A local community which was conceived by men of vision with a rich cultural background and was developed by farsighted men, willing to give of their time and talents to the community's welfare. A local community which, beyond its physical attractions, has been distinguished by the quality of its citizenry and by their unselfish devotion to civic betterment. Such a local community is Haworth, at a distance of only fourteen miles from the original Dutch settlement of Bergen. In that early 17th century day, however, Haworth was no more than a bit of farmland. A study of the property deeds shows the first holdings in the hands of Westervelt,

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Kipp, Haring, Durie, Ackerman, Zabriskie, names associated with the Dutch, English, French, Polish forefathers.

It was in the 17th century, it will be remembered, that the Dutch began their first private ventures westward, and by immigration in family groups settled on grants of land in Manhattan and on areas contiguous to it. They found the country to the west of Manhattan, across the Hudson River, particularly favorable to their agricultural habits and because of its two partially navigable rivers, the Hackensack and the Overpeck, they thrived. While they of course had their difficulties with the Indians (the first deed transferring land from Indians to Dutch, was recorded July 12, 1630) they were able to negotiate with them and to spread their settlements farther inland, gaining new tracts beyond the Hackensack as far north as the smaller Saddle River.

But the Dutch were not left to their own devices in this new land, for in the 1650s the English had made a substantial foothold in the section which is now Fairview and Englewood, a section then called "English Neighborhood" and French Huguenots had banded together under the leadership of David Des Marest to form the first settlement along the Hackensack River at a point now called "New Milford". Here, too, a group of Poles were attracted and from a patent of acreage acquired in the years between 1662 and

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1682 the Zabriskie family spread its roots. Settlers moved north and east rather than west and it is not surprising that one of the Zabriskie connections pioneered as far east as the Palisade foothills, where a grant of land given by George II of England had already established the Ackerman family.

The English, by the end of the 17th century, had assumed political control and in their usual systematic way of colonizing, they were instrumental in establishing a judicial unit—Bergen County—in 1683. This included all the settlements and territory between the Hudson and Hackensack Rivers, from Paulus Hook (Jersey City) to the line of the province of New York. In 1693 the county was divided into townships (Harrington Township in which Haworth lies was one of them) and in 1710, the village of Hackensack, which in a span of fifty years had accrued considerable influence, was named county seat. To this day it is the political pivot of the county. The County Court House was built in 1716, and it holds the extant records dating from this period. Yet the English, in spite of their strength, politically and financially, were never able to disrupt the influence of the Dutch, which is evident, two and a half centuries later, in architecture and a persistence of Dutch names. The name "Haworth" however is English. It is thought to be related to Haworth, England, the home of the novelists, the Brontë sisters, but there is no record to prove it. Nor

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is there any certainty when the name was first used. Earliest deeds do not mention it and it was only after maps were made in the mid-nineteenth century that the name "Haworth" is found, comprising a section which covered the 14th School District of Harrington Township.

Among the maps which came into use in the 18th century is one which General George Washington used for his military guidance and on this map is shown the road along which the Haworth farmlands bordered. It bears a Dutch name, "Schraalenburgh" which, although it evades exact derivation, probably means "Little Ridge" as differentiated from the higher ridge of the Palisades, running parallel. By legend, this road is associated with General Washington, although there are no authentic records to show that Washington or his troops passed along this trail, for it was little more than an Indian trace at this time. An atlas, dated 1776-1876 states that "Washington's army was encamped on the first ridge west of the Hackensack River, north of Hackensack" and says further, "No Revolutionary battles of any importance were fought in Bergen County, though people throughout the area were subject to the inconvenience of predatory warfare." Assuming therefore that skirmishes between Redcoats and Rebels may have occurred within the Schraalenburgh Road perimeter, it is understandable that, in later days, some sections of

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it were named "Washington Avenue". Yet the old Dutch name "Schraalenburgh Road" has always been retained in Haworth.

While the Revolution may not have left much imprint on the northeastern section of Bergen County, it is an interesting fact that the condition might have been otherwise had the British, under Cornwallis, after landing at Closter Dock in November 1776, taken a different route to Fort Lee where they hoped to surprise and rout the Rebel forces under General Greene. They proceeded to Fort Lee from Alpine through a rough trail in the woods along the top of the Palisades. Had they traveled by the County Road through Demarest or the Schraalenburgh Road through Haworth they might not have missed contact with Greene's forces. As it was, General Greene and his tattered battalions had already evacuated Fort Lee and were crossing the westerly meadows and the Hackensack River, thus escaping a battle which might have ended the war favorably to the British. Judge William M. Seufert, who has made an intensive study of Revolutionary history, believes that this Cornwallis error in the choice of a road proved the turning point in the war. In a sense, then Schraalenburgh Road has a right to be called "Washington Avenue" since, by its non-use, it contributed to the success of Washington's retreat and his ultimate victory.

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It is questionable whether there were any houses along the Haworth section of the Schraalenburgh Road at the time of the Revolution. A Durie house was in the vicinity, non-existent today, but the old houses standing today were built in the early 1800s, these including the Westervelt farmhouse, the John Ackerman home, the Haring\* house, and the two Zabriskie farmhouses. All are of Dutch architecture and construction. Built of brown sandstone indigenous to this area, they give the impression of solidarity which characterized the Dutch people. They all face the south and are of the same typical plan, roof edge sloping until near the eaves and extending in curved fashion several feet beyond the wall, the hall running midway from front to rear, two rooms to the left, and to the right, a few steps leading to an ell which contained the kitchen. Huge barns were an integral part of the farm set-up. Several of these are in existence today.

Documents covering the life and activities of this era, 1775-1850, are pitifully scarce, so Haworth's development can be determined only after "history" emerged from Church archives, from family Bibles and from father-to-son folklore, when commerce and trade became factors in every day living. When new country roads, turnpikes and railroads were introduced into Bergen County, then it was that the Ha-

\*Spelled both Haring and Herring

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worth farms became accessible. It is said that the summons which aroused Bergen County from its repose was not the sonorous blast from a trumpet but the high pitched tooting of a locomotive whistle. In 1859, the Northern Valley Railroad formally opened its service to the Fairview-Englewood section — a signal for business men to invest in Bergen County real estate, even as far north as Haworth, and to share in the prosperity of the northern valley produce, potatoes, tomatoes, celery, strawberries. But prosperity was not long lived because of the outbreak of the Civil War, and the resultant labor shortage, curtailing all expansion.

Whatever part Haworth may have had in the Civil War is shrouded in mystery. There are some records which report that the 22nd New Jersey Volunteers, a Bergen County regiment of 939 men, were training along the Schraalenburgh ridge and that "a resolution was passed expressing gratitude to the collector and finance committee for their arduous labors in providing substitutes and volunteers to fill the quota of the county." There are some records, too, which show that slaves which were owned in this section were quickly freed, though Bergen County was Democrat and not generally in sympathy with Lincoln.

With the cessation of hostilities between the States, new life sprang up in Bergen County and again interest in expansion was aroused. In the late 1860s, a

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group of Englewood pioneers entered upon extensive operations outside their limits, purchasing land to the north, including acreage in Haworth. Jacob S. Wetmore bought the Haring property and I. Smith Homans bought a section, owned since 1859 by Peter Demarest, north of the Zabriskie farm. A large house of English style was built on the Homans' estate either by the next owner, Robert W. Boorman, or by Hazel F. Pickert, who resided here 1870 to 1873. This house, set back from Schraalenburgh Road some five hundred feet was called "The Grange", reminiscent of English landed gentry possessions, no doubt, and the barns were at a considerable distance from the house. A huge stable with eleven box stalls was located to the west in the valley.

Opposite this property and abutting Hardenburgh Avenue and the Wetmore Estate, a piece of land was acquired by George Opdyke. It was a speculative gesture spurred by the investments of William Walter Phelps, resident in Teaneck and later to be our ambassador to Germany. George Opdyke had been mayor of New York City 1862-1864, the first Republican mayor New York had, and it is known that both he and his son, William S., were interested in New Jersey real estate. The name appears in sections to the south in the area called "Schraalenburgh" (now Dumont) where in 1862 the Dixon family had settled. None of the Opdykes lived in Haworth.

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Another investment in Haworth farmland was made in these early 1860s, by one of the young Kipp lads, Isaac from Schraalenburgh, who apparently had in his mind the idea of getting married. He acquired a farm—he was only twenty-four years of age—near Durie Avenue, leading to Closter. (This was still within Schraalenburg periphery.) Isaac was the only one of William Kipp's five sons to locate here, the others going either to the Tappan or the Closter district.

In the 1870s, John Ackerman, Jr., who had inherited a Schraalenburgh Road farm from his grandfather—he had a parcel of 160 acres extending from present Maple Street east as far as Tenakill Brook in Demarest — divided the land on the west side of Schraalenburgh Road between his three daughters, Cornelia, Mary Jane, and Sarah Louisa. Only Cornelia (Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbeek) resided here. The Vanderbeek home, set in a clump of old trees, was not of Dutch design, but there was another example of Dutch Colonial architecture on property owned by a Westervelt relative, Charles Mount, which lay in the valley, close to the single-track railroad which was laid in 1873.

The opening of the railroad in the Schraalenburgh Valley proved the most persistent invitation to home-seekers to settle here. Families who could maintain horses and carriages for use to and from stations could now be lured from the city. Although the first rail-

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road which carried passengers from Ridgefield Park to Tappan did not long survive owing to lack of patronage, other ventures replaced it and by 1883 dependable service was being carried on by the New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad Company. Double tracks had now been laid and a station stop inaugurated at Haworth. This, plus the fact that definite bounds for Haworth as a part of Harrington Township had been drawn, gave Haworth its first, if limited, feeling of being a cohesive entity. On the north it stretched to Durie Avenue (the road to Closter); on the east to Tenakill Brook (Demarest); on the west to Brook Street (beyond the brook and small pond); on the south to Chestnut Bend (marked by a group of large chestnut trees). Within these limits lay nine farms, four on the east of Schraalenburgh Road, belonging to Westervelt, Ackerman, Wetmore, Opdyke; and five on the west, owned by Kipp, Vanderbeek, Charles Mount, Pickert, Zabriskie.

Thus, the picture of Haworth, in the beginning, turns on the axis of the Schraalenburgh Road, a picture of farmlands, typifying the simplicity and pristine beauty of our early America.

## CHAPTER TWO

### *In Its Infancy*

1880-1890

*T*HE Haworth of the 1880s showed the promise of a community of enterprise and vision. Six of its nine Schraalenburgh Road farms were in the hands of the direct descendants of the settlers with an inherent kinship to the land. These included the Westervelts, Ackermans, Opdykes, Zabriskies, Vanderbeeks, Kipps. The other three properties were magnets for the adventuresome and the forward-looking. To see this Haworth in retrospect is to travel along the Schraalenburgh Road, north to south, proceeding along the east side, returning via the west, and to meet, at least in cursory fashion, these homesteaders of the 1880 decade.

The first house to see, immediately south of Durie Avenue, is the charming Dutch example built of brown sandstone. It was erected in 1812 by Garret Durie for his bride Anna Haring. She was related to the family for whom the township, Harrington, was named. Their one heir, a daughter, Giddie Durie, was married to John Westervelt and they took over the occupancy of the house. Then the Westervelt heir,

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also a daughter, Anna Maria, married Joseph Mount of Saugerties, New York and in 1880 it is the Mounts, Joseph, Anna Maria and their son Westervelt Mount, nicknamed Wessie, who are the farmhouse occupants. Since that time until the late 1940s when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Belcher, the place has been known as "The Mount Farm".

Living with Joseph and Anna Maria were also Joseph's parents, Franklin and Eliza, who had, as part of their duties, the care of property on the west side of Schraalenburgh Road owned by Franklin's brother Charles, who made his home principally in Red Bank and came only occasionally to the Dutch farmhouse in the valley. Grandma and Grandpa Mount can even yet be remembered but it is Joe Mount and his wife who are the colorful characters. They liked to entertain in their kitchen where the table was always bountifully laden and where the roaring fire in the fireplace disseminated the necessary warmth after the outdoor labors of milking and caring for the stock. Wessie Mount, a mere lad at this time, lived his entire life in this Colonial homestead, and after his schooling in Demarest and Closter and his marriage to Miss Gretta Ward, he took an active part in the civic work of Haworth. Lists of Fire Company members, and of Election Boards all record the name of Westervelt Mount. He was a regular attendant at Council meetings. In fact, it was jokingly said he had

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a reserved seat! He was the original coal dealer of the community and the triangular hand-manipulated snowplow with which he cleared the village streets can be seen in the mind's eye today. In the early Borough administrations, as Poor Master, in the later administrations, as Welfare Commissioner, he did outstanding service for the town's few needy. At his death in 1945, Haworth lost a valuable citizen and one of the few who could boast being a direct descendant of a Colonial settler. He left no heirs and his wife now resides in Harrington Park.

At the Ackerman farmhouse adjacent, at this period, John Ackerman, Jr. and his wife were making a home for their two motherless grandchildren, Cora and Everett Bell. The Colonial homestead had been built by John Ackerman's grandfather in the post-Revolutionary era. It is not only the oldest house of the area but the most beautiful. Cora recalls many of her grandfather's tales relative to life when farming was a subsistence "must" and when the memories of Indians, and later of Redcoats, were vivid. By 1905 both John Ackerman and his wife were deceased and in 1906 Cora married J. Carlton Oren, a New York City lawyer. Mr. Oren handled many important New York real estate transactions, one of which was to clear the titles for Rockefeller Center. The Orens continued their home in the Ackerman homestead and even since her husband's death in

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1949 Cora has remained in the old farmhouse. The property will go to the only Oren child, a son Stanley, thus to continue the tradition that this land coming by grant from King George II of England has never been sold. The Orens making their home exclusively in Haworth will always be remembered for their civic contributions. For many years, Carl Oren was a member of the Board of Education, serving also as president, while Cora Oren furthered, in particular, the welfare work of the Red Cross and of the Congregational Church.

Everett Bell, the only other Ackerman heir, was given property, upon his marriage to Emma Frantz of Dumont, south of the family farmhouse. Here he built a home in 1907, where he lived throughout Haworth's formative years. Everett was the first Borough Collector, a post he long held. He died in 1938 and his widow, who transferred her home to Ellenville, New York, sold the property. There are no heirs. This home, in 1955, belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schroeder.

The next farm, by 1880, was in the hands of the Jacob S. Wetmores though the original Dutch-type house was built by one of the Harings around 1812. There is no record that any other than a tenant farmer lived here, for the Wetmores themselves resided in Englewood. The next acreage, from Hardenburgh Avenue to Chestnut Bend, indicated on an 1888 map

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as "The Opdyke Plot", was untenanted for many years.

Opposite the Opdyke Plot, on the west of Schraalenburgh Road at the southern tip of the village, there were three hundred acres under the original ownership of Garret Zabriskie, who had built a Dutch homestead in the valley in 1818. Here in 1880, Garret's grandson, John G. Zabriskie was living with his wife and their three grandchildren, Elmina, John Henry, and Ira Christie, children of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, who had married Dan Christie of River Edge. The house, facing present Massachusetts Avenue, was later called "The Christie House". It was backed by huge barns, an old smoke house, a drinking well and several huts for Negroes working on the place. (A family by the name of O'Blenis lived and worked here for years). When the Borough was formed this farm was divided and Ira Christie's portion fell within the limits of Dumont (formerly Schraalenburgh) but John Henry Christie kept the family homestead and with his wife and two sons, Fred and Lloyd, lived many years as a Haworth resident. "John Hen", as he was called, served on the Borough's first council, continuing until 1910. He served as well on the Congregational Church Board of Trustees. When he and his boys (Mrs. Christie already deceased) left the farm in the 1930s, a cousin Walter Christie, then President of the Bergenfield National Bank, lived here until it became the E. D.

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Veldran property. In 1954 it was bought by Alan Whitelaw. Although the main entrance to the Colonial home has over it the date "1818", this is not the complete original house, for a fire damaged it, in large part, in the early 1900s. It was at a time when the Fire Company was new and green, when hose lines were not sufficient, and when, had it not been for the help of the Dumont Fire Company, the house might have been entirely lost. The Christies restored the house, rejoicing that the old fireplaces and mantels were unscarred.

The Zabriskie family also included a cousin to John Hen and Ira, John Jake Zabriskie, who was the son of Henry, John G.'s only son. He was older than the Christie boys and lived in the Dutch-designed house on Schraalenburgh Road which was built by Henry Zabriskie, uncle of John G. This homestead is owned today by Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Anderson who report that horseshoes are still to be found in the vicinity. This is understandable since John Jake was one of the early blacksmiths of this area and operated his smithy just north of the homestead. The smithy later became John Jake's home. Both houses passed from the family ownership after the deaths of John Jake and his wife.

John G. Zabriskie had a bachelor brother, Henry (named for his uncle) who owned an acre in the northwest corner of the Zabriskie land, running along

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the brook and pond. Here Henry operated a sawmill, the lumber going to the new building concerns that were beginning to spring up in the Englewood and Hackensack sections. There is no trace today of this mill. It was not one of the important mills of Bergen County because of the limited supply of water, yet there are those old-timers who remember it distinctly, standing on the west bank of the pond (present East View Terrace) at an approximate position three hundred feet south of Haworth Avenue.

North of the Zabriskie's lay the Hazel F. Pickert acres which were for sale following the Pickerts' departure from "The Grange" in 1873, as were also the acres adjoining, owned by Charles Mount. Abutting this were the land parcels given by John Ackerman, Jr. to his three daughters and at this time, Cornelia, and her husband Cornelius Vanderbeek were living here. Although there was a small barn near the house, the Vanderbeeks used the larger Ackerman barns on the east of the road. Cornelius was the first Borough Assessor. There was one daughter, Gertie, who was attending school in Demarest at this time, along with Cora Bell and Wessie Mount. It is recalled that when Gertie had bought a pair of white shoes (these were not in general use in the '80s), and her friends tried to deter her from wearing them, she had cried out, "No matter—got 'em, going to wear 'em", a quotation repeated many times in later-day Haworth when the

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occasion, and even Gertie herself (now deceased) had been all but completely forgotten. In the early 1900s the property came into the ownership of Peter DeTroy and it is the home of the elder son, Peter Jr. in 1955.

Beyond the Vanderbeeks, on the extreme north border, on a parcel of sixty-five acres, which in 1863 Isaac Kipp had bought for his bride, Catherine Ann VanOrden, was the Kipp homestead. It stood on the south side of the street, an extension of Durie Avenue, then known as Flats Road and now Lake Shore Drive. Two sons, William and Irving, were born and brought up here. When Irving married, he moved into his own home which he, himself, built diagonally opposite his father's, while William, also married, remained in the original homestead, operating a store in one section of it.

In 1881 when the New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad ran its right of way through Kipp farmland, the railroad guaranteed them fence protection. “The fence will be placed on both sides of the roadbed, and will be made of stout chestnut lumber with three parallel lengths of barbed wire” the document read. In the first years of the railroad's life, a stop was made just northeast of the Kipp property, called “Frankfort”. At the small depot here, Isaac Kipp, who saw service in the Civil War, sold tickets in the last years of his life, but when he died in 1892, the

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"Frankfort" stop had already been canceled and the name of the crossing changed to "Kipp's Crossing", the name it bears today. Isaac's sons enjoyed their homes here, in close proximity, until in 1913 William moved to Demarest. Although Irving's vocation was carpentry, he ran the farm together with a greenhouse business. After his death, his widow continued the greenhouses and here some of Haworth's best tomato plants were germinated. Mrs. Kipp kept the home-stead until her death in 1951 when her daughter, Myrtle, who had married Wilbur LeCompte, a descendant also of an early Haworth family, inherited it. The LeComptes then sold the Irving Kipp home-stead and built a more modern house nearby. In 1955 they are still Haworth residents, retaining a section of the original farm.

The railroad did more than make a dent in the Kipp farmlands. It made a mark on the history of Bergen County. Together with sawmills, it heralded the beginning of permanent settlements and it brought to the environs of Haworth another group of men—business men who were not primarily interested in agriculture, but who had that adventuresome spirit which is the driving force of progress.

First among these to arrive was John D. Phyfe, who in 1880 purchased the Razel F. Pickert property owned at the time by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reid. It included one hundred eight acres, the house

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called "The Grange" and several barns. The deed shows that it was measured by so many "lengths, chains and links" from the Garret Zabriskie property to a line of large chestnut trees forming the northerly boundary. Mr. Phyfe was a New York City architect and builder, a man always looking to the future, always planning new methods, new contrivances, new avenues of advancement. He brought with him to "The Grange", on a cold January day, his wife, Jane, her sister, Emma, and six children. Around the family table of later-day Haworth, the story was often repeated of that January entrance! Snow lay on the ground. It was bitter cold. There was no way to get up the hill from the railroad but by "Shanks' mare". The three adults carried children as well as luggage. It was a long haul. But the house, from the outside, beckoned invitingly. Yet, alas, it was not so inviting within. The cousin, who had come out the preceding day to make a furnace fire and get the home warm, had been unable to do more than light the fireplaces. The main flue of the furnace was crumbled into bits. The house was excruciatingly cold. As the children remember it, they didn't have their coats off for days! Even with the five fireplaces all blazing!

The Phyfes lived in "The Grange" ten years and after they moved back to the city, the boys would return Saturdays and summers for sports. In 1909, Benjamin, one of the younger sons, married the

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daughter of Haworth's first mayor, Helen McCulloch, and they built their Colonial-type home on this same Schraalenburgh Road (original Haring property). Here the B. P. Phyfes resided for forty years, bringing up their two sons, William and John Duncan, and taking an active part in civic and church life. In 1949, they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dorr and moved to Englewood.

Another new arrival of 1881 to have a hand in the expansion of Haworth was Francis W. Holbrook. He and his wife leased the Dutch farmhouse in the valley owned by Charles Mount, which was razed in the depression of the 1930s for firewood. It was Mr. Holbrook's main concern to subdivide his neighboring farms and to bring more people to Haworth. He drove across the fields day after day—there were as yet no roads—transmitting them to paper for future distribution. Mr. Holbrook, who had a suave, persuasive manner, may be considered the town's first developer. With his wife, he was one of the organizers of the Congregational Church. There were no children and the Holbrooks left soon after the Borough was incorporated, though Mr. Holbrook renewed his business contacts over the ensuing years. He came back at one time to live in "The Grange" after it had been sold by the Phyfes. While the Phyfes lived in the house, they had made several improvements, one of which was to add an ell, one-storied, to be used as

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a dining room. The kitchen remained in the basement alongside a "slop-room", such as English manors have, with copper sink and dumb-waiter. Today this ell is used as the kitchen. The house was again remodeled in 1945 and it is currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pavarini who have transformed it into a very handsome estate. The gardens, which slope to the west, won first prize in a 1954 Bergen County Contest.

While Frank Holbrook was thinking in terms of Haworth sub-division, John Phyfe was concerned with making Haworth more accessible. And to that end, he contributed to the New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad Company a one-acre plot for a station, making the conveyance upon the condition that the Railroad Company shall stop at least two passenger trains each way daily at this depot. The property was accepted by the Railroad Company in March 1885, the station was built shortly thereafter (the original still stands today), daily train service was begun and a new era was opened.

In 1886, another astute business man, Samuel I. Acken settled on Schraalenburgh Road, he too a builder with offices in New York City. He acquired ten acres from the Wetmore Estate including the house, known up to this time as "The Haring House". The Acken sons—there were four of them—went to school in Demarest while the one daughter, Sally,

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attended a private school in Englewood. The eldest son Joe was a talented architect who designed several Haworth homes as well as the Congregational Church. He also designed the remodeling of the Haring house and made a feature of the three fireplaces, copying one from an original at Harvard College, while the other two are replicas of the early Colonial period and the later Empire period. They are show pieces in the house today which, since 1938, has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Dell. Sam, the second son, was station agent when the Haworth railroad stop was first named and he was a member of the committee which planned the incorporation of the Borough. The house at the southeast corner of Schraalenburgh Road and Madison Avenue was the one Sam built in 1901 for his bride, Miss Mayhew of Closter. They lived there a number of years, then moved elsewhere but came back to the Borough in the 1930's and Sam died here. The other two sons became lawyers, and the younger, George, was the first Borough Clerk. He kept the home for his mother as long as she lived and remained a Borough citizen until 1940. He resides now in Westwood.

With this glimpse of the 1880-1890 Haworth, marking the Schraalenburgh Road homes, the participants in the first life of the village have made their entrances—the Mounts, the Ackerman-Orens, the Zabriskie-Christies, the Vanderbeeks, the Kipps,

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the John D. Phyfes, the Holbrooks and the Ackens.

The Schraalenburgh Road through the decade of the '80s continued as the central artery for travel even though it amounted to little more than a dirt road full of ruts. Cora Oren says she remembers vividly the Phyfe surrey coming down the road, a dog pacing under the front axle, the carriage filled with laughing young people, Ackens and Phyfes. They were on their way via Durie Avenue to Closter, the largest abutting town for trade opportunities, school and church. Yet the axis began, after 1888 and the completion of the railroad station, to swing from Schraalenburgh Road to the railroad, now operated by the New York Central System.

It was a significant change and in 1888 another important step was made in the development of this awaking village, when a road was donated to Harrington Township by John D. and Jane Phyfe on the north boundary of the family holdings. It ran parallel to a lane on the southern bounds of the Charles Mount farm. The row of large chestnut trees, which was the original line dividing Phyfe from Mount property, was left standing to form a parkway between the roadways which stretched down the hill from Schraalenburgh Road across the railroad tracks to the brook, the terminal of the Phyfe farm. A map filed in the County Court House on July 7, 1888 states: "This map is filed for the purpose of showing the dedi-

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cation to the public of this land for street purposes." The new westerly roadway\* opened to the public an area heretofore inaccessible.

Haworth was out of its swaddling clothes!

\*In May 1905 these double lanes were made a boulevard parkway, one hundred twenty feet in width, a beautiful central driveway with an intervening tree-lined space, unique in Bergen County. It is called "Haworth Avenue".

## CHAPTER THREE

### *In Its Youth*

1891-1909

THE events following 1888 and 1889 had much to do with the future status of Haworth. No longer were its stretching fields, its beautiful wooded areas, its rambling brooks an end unto themselves. The designing eyes which had been cast upon these fertile Schraalenburgh Road farms as early as 1888 came closer and closer. Events in the county which included the opening of the Englewood and Hackensack Hospitals\* and the publication of *The Bergen Evening Record* and *The Englewood Press* lent their influence to a successful extension program which had been envisioned when the Haworth Land Improvement Company had been formed. A map of Haworth filed in April, 1888 listed Francis W. Holbrook as one of the incorporators of this venturesome company and through his persistence forty-four acres of the western portion of the Phyfe holdings were procured for development. Then it was that the first homes on the west side of the railroad tracks were

\*The Holy Name Hospital, on Teaneck Road, southern extension of Schraalenburgh Road, was not opened until 1925.

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built and that three New York City professors, A. A. Randall, E. H. Schuyler, and A. E. Lobeck came here to live. These families proved themselves wide-awake to the advantages of suburban living and equal to their role of becoming the backbone of a progressive community.

In the first years of the '90s, two other promoting companies flourished, the Boston Land Company and the Villa Site Company. The Boston Land Company subdivided a section of the property from Schraalenburgh Road east to Demarest, which they called "Cleveland on the Hill", in honor of Grover Cleveland, New Jersey-born President of the United States. The Villa Site Company developed a section equaling in width about six blocks, extending from Schraalenburgh Road west to the West Shore Railroad tracks where, on the present Owatonna Street the Wintersteen family, the Hyndmans, the E. A. Kings and the Weissleders located. The Boston Land Company proved the more energetic developer, for with high pressure methods and picturesque media, they sold literally thousands of lots (20' x 100') many of which were owned by the original purchasers as recently as 1950.

In the early '90s also another gentleman had large interests in Haworth. He was Henry Copeland, a New York City banker, and his son, Henry F. with his wife and daughter, Louise, lived in Haworth many years.

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Henry F., who took over his father's real estate problems, served as a councilman under several of the early mayors and was greatly esteemed for his financial acumen, which without doubt saved the young Borough many a needed dollar. The Copeland tract of land ran westerly on the north side of Haworth Avenue from Schraalenburgh Road to Mill Street, beyond the brook. It was in litigation for a long period, deterring materially the Borough's development, until in 1921, Copeland was awarded a clear title. A part of this land had been the aforementioned Charles Mount and the Holbrook property. In 1892, A. B. Taylor, who became another of the organizers of the Congregational Church, lived on the Schraalenburgh Road terminus (later this was known as the Del Hendrickson home) while the Charles LeCompte house (now the Sprague family home) neared the western boundary. In the center section, John Richards, a West Shore Railroad employee, added his brick residence (the present home of the Hearns). Both the school and the church were in existence when the Franklin Society, the most important of the developing companies, came in 1897 to make Haworth into a larger community.

The first school had classes in a one-room building at the head of Hardenburgh Avenue. It was temporarily used until, on the northeast corner of Valley Road and Haworth Avenue, in April 1894 the school,

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built by the township, first opened for classes. Miss Kingsland was teacher and all pupils were in one room, but when the building burned in 1898, classes were transferred to "The Grange", then unoccupied. When that school year ended the new edifice was ready. This is the picture, "The Village School" which most old-timers remember—two classrooms with cloak rooms on the first floor and one room only on the second floor. Here it was that Miss Isabel Hoagland officiated as principal, teaching the four highest grades with Miss Priscilla Herckner teaching the four primary grades. Here it is that a Haworth school building has always stood (the third also burned in 1922) and that another new beautiful building has been added in 1954.

The first idea for a church was conceived and the first steps taken for its organization in 1892 on the lawn of A. A. Randall. Later, in June 1893, at "The Grange", the then home of Francis W. Holbrook, twenty people, representing six families, made the initial organizing move and on June 29, 1893 a constitution and by-laws were accepted at A. A. Randall's home. Mr. George Robinson, a neighbor of the LeCompte family, did the necessary legal work for the incorporation and on January 7, 1894 the organization of "The First Congregational Church of Haworth" was consummated at the home of E. A. King (the 1955 home of Peer Wedvick). Services were be-

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gun immediately with the Reverend William Walton coming each Sunday from Closter to preach in the members' homes. When the school building was completed in 1898 services were transferred to its second floor room. Here Alice Randall, now Mrs. Virgil Bogert of Dumont, and Mrs. Winfield Cowell, now deceased, played the piano for congregational singing. Here, too, devoted laymen read the sermons of Phillips Brooks, one of the outstanding preachers of the day, since the congregation was as yet too small to bear the expense of a resident minister. These included D. V. Thompson, E. H. Schuyler, Henry M. Robert, Cecil A. Kidd, and Henry E. Crocker.

The social life of the day, restricted by the inadequacies of the times, consisted of card parties and dances. At the card parties, euchre was played and the guests were in evening clothes, regardless of the fact that in order to attend they may have had to traipse over soft, crushed-stone walks or muddy streets, carrying lanterns. Horses, at least for social uses, were scarce. Mr. Randall owned one, and Mr. Charles LeCompte another. Wessie Mount had a team. The story is told that Charlie LeCompte's horse was a former racer and that one day when Charlie was driving to Alpine with his wife and baby son, he went via the Closter Race Tracks, the site of the Regional High School built in 1954. At the time, a race was in progress and Charlie's horse, in remembrance of for-

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mer feats and in disregard of his passengers, dashed into the track to join the contestants. That the Le-Comptes lived to tell the tale is one of the miracles of the generation!

The dress of the day was as stiff and starched as the customs—women in shirtwaists with high collars; men in white shirts with starched collars and cuffs. Their four-in-hand ties and ascots were ornamented with scarf-pins and both sexes wore fobs for their watches, though some men used, instead, heavy gold watch-chains stretching across their omnipresent vests. Mustaches were the fashion for the men, pompadours for the women. For day wear as well as evening, the women wore long skirts, ground length. High-buttoned shoes, black stockings, corsets, closely-fitted suits, petticoats lacy trimmed, sailor hats, the prevailing “women’s wear”! Winter flannels, spats, “Prince Albert” coats with striped trousers for Sundays, derbies and high silk hats, the masculine wardrobe for this fashionable era!

Any who may remember Haworth in these horse and buggy days will recall the windmill just east of the A. A. Randall barn. Water came from a well and was pumped by this windmill into an attic tank. Most of the homes had wells for drinking water and if there were attic tanks, they were filled by hand-pumping, for Mr. Randall possessed the only privately owned windmill ever to be erected in Haworth. It

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was Mr. Randall, too, who owned the only tennis court of the time. It was here that the young people gathered for instructions and good times. They came from far and near on bicycles, a popular mode of early travel, and it will be recalled that it was a happy Sunday's recreation to peddle as far as Teaneck! Here, the Phelps Estate, a beautiful park, open to the public with tree-arched bridle paths, narrow winding roads and the moss-covered, fire-ruined mansion, the former home of William Walter Phelps, made a resting spot, peaceful and refreshing, before the long trip back home!

The community was joined in 1894 by William T. McCulloch, a New York Central executive, with his wife and one daughter, Helen. They located at the corner of Park Street, which was then called Holbrook Street, and St. Nicholas Avenue, and in the following year, William H. Addoms built a large stone residence on Haworth Avenue, while in 1903 Henry F. Copeland, Henry J. Hull and the Hotallings built on Copeland holdings. The Milne family came soon after to occupy the Hotalling house (present Edgar Law home) and Wilbur F. Herrick built on St. Nicholas Avenue. Herrick was a young widower with a son, Harold, and when his house was finished, he married Miss Elizabeth McQuillan, who was at the time the Haworth station agent and postmistress. Then upon her marriage, one of the young graduates

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of the village school, Roy Wintersteen, became station master. He was probably the youngest ever to hold so important a responsibility. He served also as postmaster, for the postoffice was then in the railroad station. The Wintersteen family moved from Haworth in the early 1900s and Roy became an ordained Unitarian minister. He returned to preach the sermon at the 50th anniversary of the Congregational Church on November 16, 1943—a very happy occasion!

New homes were appearing in the mid-'90s in the "Cleveland on the Hill" section, due to the real estate operations of the Boston Land Company. Among the buyers and settlers who came to these houses were the Dedeckers, the Benders, John Hills, Kellys, the Fredericks, the Park family, Gerstenbergers, Allens, DeTroys, Kesslers, the Robbins, the Emrichs, Mrs. Emrich's mother, and brothers, George and Fred. With the Rowleys, the Haibles, the Fred Stiers and the McGloins, these families became active participants in the budding town affairs. Near the Hardenburgh Avenue, Schraalenburgh Road intersection, the Browns built a house. Just west of it was a one-story shop for meat market. The chopping block for Brown's meat is in the cellar of the house today, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shinn.

With Haworth's young life definitely started, the Franklin Society of New York City, established in 1888 for home-building and savings, became interested

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in it, and began, in 1897, extensive promotions, building homes, all west of the railroad, south of Ivy Avenue, as far west as present West View Terrace. This company was headed by Charles O'Connor Hennessy, a man of wide interests, with a vision of a Haworth which would have character and worthy aims. Mr. Hennessy himself came to live here and with his wife and one son Frank, he touched the life of this young community in a way that laid a firm foundation for cultured living. Politically minded, he became a member of several of the early councils, continuing, to become New Jersey State Assemblyman and later State Senator. He always retained his close contacts with the Haworth he deeply loved. One of Haworth's streets has been named in his honor. **1481636**

General Henry M. Robert, a retired Army officer, nationally known as a parliamentarian (author of the famous *Robert's Rules of Order*) first lived on Terrace Street, in 1900 moving to Sunset Avenue, into one of the new Franklin Society homes (now owned by Howard Moody). By his neighbors and by the young people of the day, he is remembered as a marvelous Bible scholar and a Bible teacher of rare ability and distinction. In May 1901, he married the Grammar School Principal, Miss Isabel Hoagland, a woman congenial with him in both intelligence and philosophy. Although their Haworth residence was brief, both left an indelible mark on this, their first home.

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Haworth is always proud to claim them, and the Borough operates today under the Robert's *Rules*.

The character of the people who came to Haworth under the aegis of the Franklin Society stamped the community immediately as one in which teachers, professional people and business executives would be congenial. Among the first of these newcomers were the Ettingers and the Kidds, both connected with the New York Public School System; the Burrs (Mr. Burr was a carriage builder, competitor of Brewster and Company); the Crockers, the Carters, and the Cowells (Mr. Crocker was a literary man, head of a teacher employment agency, Mr. Carter was a manufacturer of pumps and Mr. Cowell was a railroad man); the D. V. Thompsons (Mr. Thompson was a professor of English). A group, locating at the southwestern orbit of the widening residential rim brought about by the Franklin Society efforts, included the Harrisons (Mr. Harrison was an engineer who put in many of Haworth's streets); the Finks (Denman Fink was an artist of note who later in his life sketched and planned Coral Gables, Florida); the Knapps (Frank Knapp was one of the editors of *The New York World*); the Sullivans, the Hamlinks, the Fitzgeralds, the Fish family, the VanDusens, the Geraghtys, Crowes, Collins, the Ogsburys, the Gallaghers, the Forbes, and the Devlins.

The building trades were flourishing in this era, for

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Bergen County, like other parts of the world, was enjoying the fruits of an industrial transformation in which the machine was steadily displacing manual labor. Steam, the great source of manufacturing, was still in its ascendancy and gas was used for the illumination of homes and business places. It was an era of normal prosperity, uplifted to a plane of peace which the generation took for granted. Until the Spanish-American War rudely awakened it to the possibilities of international troubles! Short-lived as this war happily proved, it brought to the minds of the people a sense of impermanence and settled them into a mode of living which stressed hard work. Relaxation came in simple forms—the Theatre, melodramatic, and the Musical Comedy, melodious and refreshing. It was the day of George M. Cohan, Lillian Russell, and the Floradora Sextette!

At the turn of the century, on the heels of the developments by the Franklin Society, and on property which it owned, the Haworth Country Club, later to be known as "The White Beeches Golf and Country Club" began its career as one of the foremost recreational spots of the county. It started with a nine-hole golf course, four tennis courts, and a small temporary club house at its northeast corner. W. T. McCulloch was its first president. A few years later, it expanded into a course of eighteen holes by leasing some of the adjoining land, then owned by

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Hugh J. Grant, one of New York's mayors who owned a summer estate in Oradell. In 1955 the Club's president was Victor DeTroy.

Before the Club House had become the town's social center, the young set enjoyed summer dances on the porches of the private homes. Mrs. McCulloch played the piano, for there were not yet dance records. In the winters, the parties were held in the second floor room of the schoolhouse, attended by both seniors and juniors. Sometimes, they wore fancy dress and there is a picture in Haworth archives which shows the crowd in sheets and pillowcases. It was Hallowe'en and even though the masks are off in the snap-shot, it is not easy to identify the participants. However it seems all Haworth was there!

Another favorite pastime of summer life in the early 1900s was canoeing on the nearby Hackensack River. The river, tiny and tortuous at the Haworth-Oradell junction, was a beautiful setting for this quiet recreation and until the Hackensack Water Company procured the water rights and began building the dam and the reservoir, the canoes drifted up and down under the canopy of overhanging trees. The pleasure was given up regretfully, yet in full realization that Progress was on the move!

Throughout the '90s transportation had been primitive, horses and carriages, sleds and sleighs, carts and drays, with the use of the railroads handicapped by

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the difficulties of reaching them. But as the development companies opened up one new section after another, roads of dirt were built as well as sidewalks, fashioned either of planks or of crushed-stone. These, lighted by kerosene lamps at important corners, aided in the neighborliness which early became the cornerstone of Haworth's life. Then, in the 1900s the automobile arrived! It was 1903 that saw the first to be owned in Haworth. It was an Oldsmobile, with stick drive, no top, no extra tire, no automatic starter. It was owned by Mr. McCulloch. That it could maneuver the poor roads and “make” the hill proved it the epitome of Power in the minds of the townspeople. Nevertheless, the Horse was still King and the Haworth homes were served by merchants who drove to the customers with horse and cart. Herron from Closter delivered groceries, Christie from River Edge brought meats, baked goods came from Tenafly, and vegetables came largely from local gardens. An ice-man delivered ice from one of Wessie Mount's horse-driven trucks. Water was now supplied by the Haworth Water and Light Company from an artesian well which had been sunk by a private company on Owatonna Street and pumped by windmill to a huge tank erected at the intersection of Haworth Avenue and Schraalenburgh Road which gave the name “Tank Hill” to this point.

“Tank Hill” was steep, very steep, in this early day

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—a problem to climbers but a pleasure to coasters. Children with sleds flocked to the hill after school hours and even at night many bob-sleds took the run all the way to the railroad tracks. Time and again when the hill was icy, there was a spill, but no matter, it was a world of fun! No need for ski-trains and weekend pilgrimages to Lake Placid. Winter sports, including skating on the pond near "The Grange" were within the village limits; the village, which the political fathers were planning to incorporate into the unity of a Borough.

This incorporation took place in March 1904. William T. McCulloch became the first mayor. At the time, Mr. McCulloch was Auditor of Freight Accounts of the New York Central Railroad, a man gifted with executive ability and a keen knowledge of both men and finances. With him, there served as Councilmen Joseph B. Acken, William H. Addoms, John H. Christie, Peter DeTroy, Henry J. Hull, and Philip J. Kessler. Mr. McCulloch served through 1908. Council meetings were held in the mayor's home and it is recalled that Cornelius Vanderbeek and Peter DeTroy would arrive early so they might hear the playing of the latest invention, the Edison phonograph. The records were of wax, cylindrical, and the horn used was shaped like a morning-glory. A borough street, the continuation of St. Nicholas Avenue, where Mr. McCulloch resided, was later named "McCulloch

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Place” to honor the man who was Haworth’s first mayor.

Politics were becoming important in Bergen County as the Republican Party was gaining power with William M. Johnson of Hackensack and Edmund W. Wakelee of Demarest at the controls. The electric trolley car had made its appearance and land values soared spectacularly. But the introduction of the trolley car met difficulties in some localities which feared its intrusion might harm residential qualities. Yet in other municipalities there were business men and politicians who saw the advantages of better transportation and strove to outdo each other in order to gain concessions from the traction companies in exchange for franchises. One such politician was Ed. W. Wakelee who, as Attorney for the incorporation of Haworth, is credited with influencing the fact of the eastern borough limits at one hundred feet west of Knickerbocker Road, in order to save for Demarest, *his* home town, the franchise of the proposed trolley line on Knickerbocker Road. It is told, also, that Wakelee’s efforts in this proceeding were due to the influence of his mother Mrs. Eliza Wakelee who, as a Woman’s Christian Temperance Union adherent, was determined to keep the Fredericks’ Hotel where alcoholic beverages were sold, out of Demarest. The hotel was owned and managed by Julius Fredericks, whose daughter, Mrs. Amelia Bender, is living in Haworth today. Whether or not this is true, it is true that a

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trolley line never came north of Tenafly and that the Knickerbocker Road did not form what would have seemed to be the natural east boundary for the Borough. It is true, as well, that Demarest remained a "dry" town until 1954 and that "The Antlers", successors to "Fredericks", doing business in 1955 does sell alcoholic beverages!

One cannot recall the picture of Haworth in its youth without a thrill of pride in the early families, still few in number because the total population was less than 500, who made their impact felt on the town's development. Early history has not recorded all the names of the people who did the ground work for Haworth's future, but names are not what gives History its permanence nor its lustre. It is the spirit with which the names are coupled. Remembering the difficulties of transportation and communication (no automobiles and no telephones), it is the more of an accomplishment that these few did so much.

By 1905, suburban growth had eaten up farm acreage to the point that there was a reduction of more than 33% since 1860. However, in the county 4519 acres were being used to grow vegetables for the New York City market, and orchard products, of which apples were the most important, had grown in value to more than \$98,000. Suburban development was, nonetheless, the most arresting topic of observation and even the metropolitan press was commenting. For

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instance, *The New York Tribune* of October 9, 1905 reported: “Alas, the days of the Bergen County farmer are numbered. Land that is worth from one to five thousand dollars per acre is too valuable to be devoted to the raising of corn and cabbage. New Yorkers need homes. Need a place to sleep o’ nights. Their children need air, green grass, and room to play”. So, New York looked across the Hudson to Bergen County and set the Haworth stage for a new “act”.

On January first, 1909, when Mayor McCulloch handed over his gavel to Henry E. Crocker, his successor, the Borough had commenced a new era of success. Peace officers, Edward Dedecker and Charles Odell, headed a marshal system of protection and town surveillance. With the growth in population, the school had been enlarged by dividing the large up-stairs rooms into two classrooms; a permanent club-house for the Haworth Country Club had replaced the former small building providing only locker space; the Congregational Church building had been erected; Public Service Electric Company and Rockland Electric Company had extended wires into the Borough; banking services were available in Closter at the Closter National Bank (opened in 1906); new streets had been opened and civic interest had become keen.

The young Borough was alert now for bigger and better things!

## CHAPTER FOUR

### *In Its 'Teens*

1910-1919

*N*o PERIOD of life is as full of romance as the 'teens. In Haworth, it was the romance of early achievements, the marriage of visions and plans with the facts of accomplishments. During Mr. Crocker's term as mayor, 1909-1913, the trend was toward organizational growth. People began banding together!

An organization, called "Haworth Beautiful", was formed with the duty to plant trees and shrubbery and to plan for park spaces. It was a volunteer effort, headed by Harry Van Dusen. Eugene Weiss, Sr. whose son Frank still resides on Haworth Avenue is credited with the planting of the first roadside trees. Through the devoted work of this group of town beautifiers, it was early advertised that Haworth was interested primarily in a high residential quality.

While the first decade of the 20th century saw Bergen County steadily advancing in industry, its inroads did not touch Haworth. Nearby Hillsdale, Hackensack and Paterson felt the industrial incursions with mills springing up for the manufacture of worsted and

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silk goods, and of paper and woodpulp. Dyeing plants were also started and in the not too distant Fort Lee, the very young motion picture industry was establishing studios. Even the romantic aura of stage celebrities did not deflect Haworth from its determined goal of being an area for home sites and cultured home living. Later the Council accepted the challenge of Haworth Beautiful and created a Shade Tree Commission in line with state and county policy. In the meantime, the Crocker administration was forging ahead on matters of primary importance, streets, sidewalks, lighting, water, and finding the right men for the right jobs. Frank Hancock Hennessy, a Lafayette College graduate, who had just passed the New Jersey bar examinations, was appointed Borough Attorney. Counselor Hennessy has held this office to the present time. Newcomers were added to the Council, which during Crocker's two terms included John H. Christie, F. S. E. Gunnell, Peter DeTroy, Henry J. Hull, George Semsey, John J. Zabriskie, William T. Hall, Louis P. Streeter, P. Willard Geer, D. deL. Hendrickson, Frank C. Osmers, Sr., Christian Bambach, George Exleben, and Dwight Whitney. Several of the newcomers were to become well-known and much-appreciated civic workers, F. S. E. Gunnell, D. deL. Hendrickson and Frank C. Osmers in particular.

Early in the 'teen years, Henry R. Roden and family came to live in the Borough, taking over occupancy

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of the Herrick house (the 1955 home of Herman Barnes). Mr. Roden, Sr. was one of the outstanding men of the early community, an undergirding support for the Congregational Church, serving as Sunday-School superintendent for many years and giving lavishly of his time and his money. The bell which today rings its welcoming tocsin from the church belfry was a Roden gift. Early, too, came Mr. Edward Cilley and his sister, Mrs. Emma Weiler. They rented the Joseph Devlin house, while the Devlins resided in upstate New York. Both Mr. Cilley and his sister were keen students, well informed, and with an insatiable love of books. To them, if to any individuals, credit could well go for creating the demand for a library, which was to become the foremost cultural institution of the later borough.

From a group of women interested in reading, called "The Wednesday Club", the first definite attempts developed for establishing a library. Although the actual fact of a municipal library did not eventuate until 1930, plans for it started in 1911 and 1912. Under an organization, called "The Library Management", books were rented at five cents per week to residents. Only one of the original Wednesday Club members lives in this area today!

Besides the attempt to answer the mental needs for the new borough by initiating library services, there was also under consideration the formation of

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a fire company to safeguard material property. It was catapulted into necessity by a disastrous fire in the winter of 1909 which completely destroyed the house of A. A. Randall, then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joselyn. So by May 1910 the Fire Company had been organized with William T. Hall as President and John H. Christie as Fire Chief. By June, some equipment had been acquired—nozzles, ladders, lanterns, buckets, axes, hose and two hand-drawn wagons. And there had been inaugurated an alarm system, which was in effect, the hammer-striking of various old iron rims from discarded locomotive wheels, a system which remained in use throughout the youth of the village.

The Haworth colony around this time was growing perceptibly. Four of the young people had married and set up homes—Helen McCulloch as Mrs. B. P. Phyfe, Dorothy Kidd as Mrs. Irving Brown, Mary Richards as Mrs. John Barron, and Frank Hennessy married to Florence Brownne of New York City. In 1909, W. H. Grenell was principal of the Grammar School and Reverend Mr. Charles A. Jones was minister of the Congregational Church. Both of these men performed a real service to the development of the community. Foremost was Mr. Jones, a man of deep spirituality. A prayer at the bedside of a sick child, whispered condolences at the grave of an old neighbor, understanding counsel to a wayward small boy—these and many other evidences of a

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truly good man endeared him to the community, so much so, in fact, that the church was loath to let him leave when ill health came upon him and he was unable to fulfill adequately his pastoral and pulpit duties. With his wife Anna who had labored as diligently as he, and his two sons, Dan and Charles Jr., he retired to Hackensack in 1926 where he finished his life's work in 1929.

Although business was never accented in Haworth, yet by 1910 there were two grocery stores open, one on Hardenburgh Avenue, operated by Patrick Fallon, and one on Terrace Street in the town's center, which was owned and run by Lester Hurd. On the second floor of the Terrace Street store was Haworth's first apartment, tenanted in this decade by a widow, Mrs. Peet and her daughter, Gertrude, a teacher at the grammar school. In 1912, after C. Y. Riker had taken over Hurd's grocery business, Riker donated a small corner of his store to the Library Management for the rental of books and here the first librarians did volunteer work, Mrs. Emma C. Weiler, Mrs. F. S. E. Gunnell, Mrs. Bernadine Emrich (now Mrs. Clark M. Ellis), and Miss Erva Littell (another of the school teachers). The southern section of the first floor space of the store was rented by the Borough for their work and even now a section of this floor space is being used for Borough Council meetings. It has also always held the Fire Company equipment, and at election

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times, allowed the placement of the voting booths. Court sessions too have been conducted here and in the 'teens, "Judge" Byron Hooper was a conspicuous figure. He was nicknamed "Bull" for he could give, so he said, either lay or legal advice! Beginning with one telephone and a desk, the Police Department have always had their headquarters here, continuing and enlarging accommodations as the Police Force has grown. In 1955, five policemen patrol the Borough—Chief Ed Menze, Sergeant Robert Bender, Gaston Michel, Robert Ackerman, William Byrnes.

In 1911, Haworth began to feel itself more closely allied with the rest of the world for the New York Telephone Company, later to be known as the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, had opened a "Central" in Dumont. Now service came to Haworth. However, the telephone was still very much of a luxury, the Dumont office serving a total of only one hundred forty-one people and its use being limited to a bare half-dozen Haworth homes. Yet, the wires buzzed on that April day in 1912 when the news was released that the great new ship, "The Titanic" had struck an iceberg. It had gone down in mid-Atlantic, in spite of its advertisement as "unsinkable", carrying over a thousand people to death. A terrifying catastrophe! The quick transmission of news was immediately seen as a great advantage, and there was a large increase in phone installations, although the main reason for

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the great increase in phone service was that there were so many more houses being built in the Borough, so many more people making a demand for this most helpful article.

For the first time, houses appeared on the Opdyke Plot where the F. C. Osmers, the Fletchers and the Wiggins located, near the Benders and the Martinots. North, across Hardenburgh Avenue, F. A. Sarg, President of the National Dollar Shirt Company had bought a beautiful home, designed and built by Joseph Acken. Mrs. Sarg, for a brief period, sold her husband's dollar shirts opposite, at what was formerly Brown's Meat Shop; these in addition to the many dozens she donated to Haworth's charities. Others of the Sarg family took up their residence nearby, the Cowans and the Mortimers. Mrs. Cowan served as Haworth postmistress, preceded by Wilbur LeCompte, W. H. Grenell, and Mrs. Kastendike; and Charlie Mortimer was one of several popular fire chiefs, with Charlie Heywang, William Milne and Louis Carlier among his predecessors. These families became immediately immersed in borough activities.

Among them, the Osmers stood out prominently. Mrs. Osmers was a singer, serving as a choir director in the Congregational Church and as the organizer and leader of the choral group of the Haworth Woman's Club, for which she also acted as president (1928-1930). The Osmers children, Eleanor and

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Frank Jr., were both active in school dramatics and Sunday School entertainments, a training which no doubt contributed to Frank Jr.'s later success in the political arena. However it was his father Frank Sr. who now picked up the political gavel. Osmers Sr. was elected mayor in 1913.

Invariably, it is the unsung heroes who rise to give the blessing, those whose names are not listed under "mayor", "councilman" or "organizer". One such would be Walter Gregory, Haworth's first taxi driver. Colored, hunchbacked, and uneducated, Walter was a beloved figure in Haworth's 'teen years. At first he drove a horse and buggy, meeting the trains for commuters and house guests, and carrying city golfers to the Club each Saturday and Sunday. His verbatim quotations of Scripture and his never-failing courtesy were marks of his interesting personality. In 1913, he met his first competitor, an Italian named Ricci. An explosive character, Tony Ricci, he was as much of an antithesis to Walter as the heavy thundering wheels of his automobile were to the light tread of Walter's decrepit surrey. Walter soon copied Ricci nonetheless and acquired from McClaskey, one of the town's earliest builders, an old yellow Buick, this, too, on the decrepit side. Later, he ran a Model T. Ford, continuing his taxi business until it was superseded by Harry LoPiccolo's in 1923.

And who is it that will not remember the Conrads?

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Louis, the father, whose background was rough and of pioneer caliber, worked on many town projects, building roads, digging cesspools, felling trees. There wasn't a boulder that he couldn't heave! His youngsters were numerous but it was Harry, the oldest, who struggled the hardest to rise in the world. Returning to Haworth recently as a self-made railroad man, he said sentimentally that in Haworth he had received his first insight into the qualities that made a man worthy of this wonderful country. And who is it that will not remember Tobey Robinson? Though stricken with blindness in his early years, he contented himself with day-dreaming at the railroad station, carrying the mail-bag back and forth from train to station, doing an occasional delivery of a telegram or special delivery letter. The few nickels and dimes that he picked up from railroad arrivals sufficed his meager wants and with a hard-working highly-esteemed sister Mary, and a fine younger brother Chester, he has managed to pass a lifetime, if not without the accumulation of goods, at least without any apparent desire for them. His cane can still be heard, clanking the Haworth streets.

Memories go back, too, to the Boys' Brigade, organized in 1912 by Erving M. Fish, owner and director of Camp Anthony Wayne, a work that made him especially well qualified to train these Haworth young boys. He has always been referred to,

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affectionately, as "Major". His wife, the former Miss Gertrude Peet, organized a private kindergarten, running it for several years according to the latest educational formula, called "The Montessori Method". His mother was a charter member of a card club, then playing euchre, which exists today, although with many changes in personnel, it now plays contract bridge.

When Frank Osmers, Sr. became mayor in 1913, his term extending to 1917, Edward Dedecker, Edmund Rowley, George Allen, James Rudesill, George Lane, Stephen Wager and Henry Collins were adding voices to Haworth's promotion. It was a time of considerable building. The postoffice building was erected and here, instead of at the station, mail was obtainable. Here also was Haworth's second apartment where the school principal, Miss Caroline Hendrickson, resided with her mother, and opposite the section used for mail service, there was another store, whose first proprietor is debatable, its ownership having changed hands so many times over the span of years.

It is understandable that new roads and road extensions were a logical concern of the young Borough. It was at this time that Maple Street was extended north of Haworth Avenue to meet Flats Road (present Lake Shore Drive) cutting through both Copeland and Kipp properties. This brought the northern rim of

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the Borough into accessible position and was an important improvement. William Milne was Collector, signing for the Borough in the property exchange.

In 1914, ten years after the Borough's incorporation, the Sacred Heart Parish was founded, through the faith and labors of several zealous women, Mrs. Henry J. Hull, Mrs. W. L. Ettinger, Mrs. Ben Orcutt, Mrs. Edward Dedecker and Mrs. John McGloin. With the Rosary Society organized the following year under the promoting hand of Mrs. W. L. Ettinger, the parish flourished, even with no more than forty Catholic families and by 1916 construction of its church building was begun. Father DeVincents was the first priest. One of the most faithful of the parishioners was Mrs. Minnie Leyden. She and her family who resided on the north side of Haworth Avenue, near the brook, served the community, as well, with devotion. Minnie's chickens and eggs will be remembered, like James Rudesill's peaches, as synonymous with Quality. Rudesill's home and orchards were on Maple Street and Harland Avenue. His daughter, Florence (now Mrs. Wetzel) who has given years of devoted service to the Congregational Church Sunday School, lives in Haworth in 1955.

When a Bergen County Mosquito Extermination Commission was formed in 1914 to conduct a year round campaign for the elimination of the mosquito, Charles S. Forbes became one of its six members. Be-

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side inspecting and reporting all possible breeding places and arranging for their drainage or clearance the Commission disseminated information to the public with whose cooperation great success has been attained. Mr. Forbes continued a valuable part of this group, becoming its chairman. Later Mr. Forbes entered the Haworth political field. He died following an operation in the late '40s. His wife and two sons still reside in town and Franklin and his bicycle are familiar sights.

On Saturday, April 18, 1914, a first village “Benefit” was presented—two plays, “*The Teeth of the Gift Horse*” and “*The Burglar*” in which Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Buttenheim, the Misses Yvonne and Muriel Paul, Mrs. E. T. Hendrickson, Mrs. M. T. Vigneron, Mr. A. P. Lobeck, Mrs. B. P. Phyfe and Mrs. William Milne performed. The committee running the affair included several new names—Mrs. Carl Stevens, Mrs. Robert Graham, Mrs. Richard Kolyer and Mrs. J. D. Whitney. The foreword in the printed program declared the object to be the “provision of a permanent home for the library”, stating that “the library is rapidly outgrowing its space in the Borough Hall” and that it wishes to buy property and erect a suitable building. Three lots were purchased following this event, under the regime of Henry Theis as president of the Library Management. A tax-bill, dated December 8, 1916 notes the value as \$450 and the tax amounted to

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\$10.80. Yet Mr. Theis, who later became president of the Citizens' National Bank and Trust Company in Englewood did not remain in Haworth long enough to see the fulfillment of that early dream. In fact, up to 1955, the dream is as nebulous as it was forty years ago! Yet the Borough which first opened its doors to the fledgling library still supports it generously and faithfully.

The round-the-week happenings of Haworth life in its 'teens call to mind many who were contributing to its successful growth. Among these were the George Lanes and the W. D. Bullards. The two men played an active part in forwarding the work of the community. W. D. Bullard served as Fire Chief twice —1916 to 1919 and 1922 to 1924; George Lane served on the Council from 1917 to 1926. Their wives were prominent in the work of the Woman's Aid Society, an adjunct of the Congregational Church. This organization had sprung from a small sewing group, called "The Thimble Club" in which Mrs. E. H. Schuyler, Mrs. Charles LeCompte, Mrs. W. T. McCulloch and her well-remembered mother, Mrs. W. H. Sill, were active in the '90s. This earliest group of Church women workers were noted for their persevering efforts to pay off the church debt. Each year, wonderful sales were held, sales of beautiful hand-work fashioned by these same women, sales which netted as much as \$400 from the linen-table alone.

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Great credit should accrue to these pioneer labors. The Woman's Aid Society has been an organization of upstanding example throughout the years, headed year after year by consecrated, competent women. Among these, as the early presidents, were Mrs. William Milne, Mrs. Charles Dixon, Mrs. E. H. Schuyler, Mrs. W. T. McCulloch, Mrs. Joseph Devlin, Mrs. W. S. Cowell.

In the mid-'teens, other families in sympathy with Haworth ideals were calling this community "home." A section north of the Country Club, around the locale of the Zabriskie "Old Mill" now fallen into disrepair, was developed by the Franklin Society and houses quickly sold to people of discriminating taste, while along St. Albans Place and West View Terrace another group settled, rapidly allying itself with borough activities, including both church and club.

In the mid-'teens, when people were humming, "I Want to be In Dixie", "'Neath the Old Apple Tree", "Peg o' My Heart", and "Trail of the Lonesome Pine", dances and parties were in full swing. Bridge clubs were popular. Life was carefree and easy and Haworth in its unsophistication and its cordiality welcomed a fine group of young couples to its circle.

Yet Life was not to continue along its serene way, for the sinking of the "Lusitania" on May 7, 1915 by a

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German submarine was the forerunner of the war with the Kaiser which brought terror to the heart of Haworth as it did to the world. When Camp Merritt, named for General Wesley Merritt, began building at Haworth's southeastern border, covering 770 acres of a wooded ridge in Cresskill and Dumont, it seemed that WAR had in truth touched Haworth's very hearth. Immediately, the town girded itself for the struggle. Men formed themselves into defense units, drilling and patrolling; the women joined the Red Cross and met together for the making of surgical dressings; the young girls were banded together in the Girls' Patriotic League. Groups covered the town selling bonds to meet the war's expenses; groups gave their time and talents to projects for the troops at Camp Merritt. Active in this line were Mrs. Mollie Hall, Mrs. Katherine Wager, Mrs. Winifred Clark, Mrs. Rosalind Newell, Mrs. Laura Rudesill. It is interesting to remember also that in this first war experience the importance of man-power was considered, for a Board of two men, B. P. Phyfe and W. C. Hall, respectively, were registering the names of eligible young men between the ages of 30 and 45 (18 years to 30 being in the draft). It was actually a Draft Board, an idea that had widespread application in World War II. And most important of all, the town's young men were volunteering—Bender, Carlier, Carter, Jr., the Christie sons, Ernie Conrad, Alfred Del-

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mage, Dedecker, Jr., Henry and Charles DeTroy, the two Ettingers, Edmond Hendrickson, Fred Haible, Bill Holland, the Huggard boys, Dan Jones, Wilbur LeCompte, Arnold Lewis, the Lobeck boys, Frank Milne, Lucien Mathias, Ed Menze, Bill McGloin, the Morans, Sam Sisco, Eugene Weiss, Jr.—all having grown to manhood within Haworth's limits.

No mention of World War I can be made without particular recognition of the success of the Liberty Loan Drives. That credit is due to many is indicative of Haworth's wholehearted response. Yet special appreciation should revert to Christian Lorentzen who steered five Drives to success. Nor will Haworth's war records be complete without paying tribute to the Red Cross activities of Mrs. A. E. Lobeck. She generously opened her living room for the making of surgical dressings. When more room was needed, Mrs. Ned Bill gave over the second floor of her home for this purpose and later the store next to the postoffice became the beehive of sewing activities. Mrs. D. deL. Hendrickson captained the work room and Mr. Henry F. Copeland headed the Haworth unit. From this date, the Haworth Red Cross grew into an active feature of civic enterprise.

When the Sacred Heart Church was built in 1915 there was no idea of the part it would play in the war promotion. Yet beyond spiritual service, it rendered a service of morale-building for the soldiers

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stationed at Camp Merritt. In the church basement weekly dances were held. Here, soldiers and Haworth girls congregated, danced and joked. Here, Haworth housewives dated boys for dinners, their last home meals before army rations on European battlefields. At these weekly Saturday night dances, Mrs. Mary Cowell played the piano, and the refreshments, all home-made cakes by Haworth's good cooks, were displayed, in tempting array, on a table on the platform. Each week there was a mouth-watering cake, donated by Mrs. Kittie Fell, which was the prize for some lucky doughboy, who carried it back to Camp with him in gleeful superiority. K.P. duty was engineered by Mrs. John Barron and Mrs. Joseph Devlin and the sizzling coffee which they brewed was a recollection that long sustained the hard working fighting units on "Flanders Fields." At least so the women heard when the letters began to come in from across the ocean!

In spite of the war's toll upon the time and energy of the community, the Library Association was incorporated in 1916 with Mrs. E. A. Bell, Mr. I. M. Clark, Mr. A. B. Gilbert, Mrs. B. P. Phyfe and Mrs. H. B. VanDusen on the first Board of Trustees. Mr. Henry E. Crocker was appointed by the Board to serve as president. Books were now loaned free.

Mr. Crocker was always associated with every forward-looking project. He was a Trustee of the Con-

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gregational Church for many years, a promoter of the Community House endeavor, an organizer of the Fire Company and an ardent worker for all educational concerns. His family followed his lead, Mrs. Crocker acting in the capacity of librarian when the books were housed in the Community House in locked, glass-doored bookcases (all old ones loaned by residents); Miss Bessie Crocker and Mrs. Sue Crocker Shaw, both residing in 1955 in the original family home on Houston Place, supporting actively all worthy enterprises of church and civic organizations.

The war was still in progress when the polio epidemic struck with considerable vigor. Haworth, like many sister-towns, felt its crippling touch. In the emergency, Mayor Osmers appointed Christian S. Lorentzen as Recorder for enforcing quarantine. He was the first Borough Recorder. As the epidemic spread, the first building of the Bergen Pines Hospital Unit in Oradell was opened to cope with the problem. Children in Haworth were wisely segregated and not allowed beyond the bounds of their own premises. This extreme care paid off in limiting the number of borough cases and none were fatal, but the need of such a blessing as the Salk Vaccine, perfected in 1955, was certainly demonstrated.

Yet there were things to laugh at, as well, in these trying times of war and epidemic. One such was the

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freak railroad accident occurring in the railroad-cut, just south of the station. A freight train, proceeding south, buckled calamitously, piling its cars high, one on top of another. Yet no one was hurt. It was a fantastic sight, and brought people from far and near to see it. Many returned daily to watch the wreckage being cleared away. As if there were nothing more important to do!

There were good times to be had, too, and in 1917, when jazz music was being imported from New Orleans, Haworth organized a band, directed by Mrs. Rosalind Newell. It was called "Roz's Jazz Band" and was hired out gratis for both entertainments and dances. There were no paid orchestras during the war, making this much appreciated.

In the spring of this same year, 1917, Germany had begun unrestricted submarine warfare, so United States ships were armed, and in June our first troops landed in France. In the same year, the Soviet Republic was set up. In this same year, the Prohibition Amendment was submitted to Congress. It was all in all a year pregnant with many possibilities, yet Haworth kept its mind on the main issue of winning the war. Gardening and canning, the planning of economies in both food and material were part of the war-work. A "Liberty Day" staged on October 12th, well-conceived and directed by Mrs. Mary Olds, climaxed a successful sale of War Bonds. The elaborate

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parade including all types of war-workers was a most ambitious presentation of borough resources.

The flu epidemic striking the eastern seaboard in February 1918 spread rapidly, invading Haworth as well as all of Bergen County. Through the medium of the American Red Cross (active in Haworth under the leadership of Mrs. Ethel Devlin) and the facilities offered at Englewood where the Field Club was transformed for emergency nursing, care was miraculously provided. Haworth was again fortunate in having less than its share of fatalities.

Before the war ended, Haworth had a new mayor. He was Harry R. Roden, younger son of Henry Roden, long since one of the "elder statesmen" of the Borough. The new mayor resided on Jefferson Street with his wife and four small sons. When the house caught fire on a cold December night, the young Fire Company had a good test of its ability. Many will recall the hazards of that fire-fighting job. The house was gutted! But restored, it stands today, the present home of Herman Zwahlen. Mayor Roden served four years, 1917-1921, with George Allen, Henry Collins, Henry Copeland, Edward Dedecker, George Lane, Stephen Wager, James Lee, Frank Knapp, Frank Cox, Lester Fletcher, Albion Clark and John Heywang on his two Councils.

By this date, Haworth had its first uniformed police officer, Eugene Weiss, Sr. appointed under the

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chairmanship of S. N. Wager, Police Commissioner. Weiss was a familiar town figure, even before this appointment, and during his years of service, he endeared himself to the populace. He was familiarly dubbed "Pop Weiss."

During this era, there was much activity in pressing for votes for women. In Haworth, there was a good sized sprinkling of suffrage adherents, Mrs. McGloin, Mrs. Rudesill, Mrs. Stier, Mrs. Bullard, Mrs. Predosa, Mrs. Phyfe among the staunchest followers. This group was closely allied with the Bergen County organization and helped in speaking at rallies, in contacting politicians, and in writing articles for the newspapers. Some of these articles, especially those in refutation of *The New York Times* editorials which were antagonistic to the cause, were unforgivably kept unmailed in a husband's pocket! But when in 1920 the suffrage was gained by the passage of the 19th Amendment, there wasn't a husband but who was grateful for his wife's vote.

Harry Roden was mayor at the time of Mr. Crocker's death and on March 3, 1918, at a Memorial Service, he offered a testimonial for the Borough. Also presented were testimonials for the School Board by President J. C. Oren; for the Library by Vice-President Mrs. B. P. Phyfe; for the Church Board of Trustees by Secretary W. T. McCulloch; for the

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Church Board of Deacons by Deacon Harry B Vandusen. On this occasion the music was memorable, including solos by Mrs. Felicie Hall and Mrs. Sara Bullard whose rich voices have always been an asset to Haworth, and the congregational singing of the hymn which Mr. Crocker himself had composed for use at the dedication of the sanctuary ten years previous. It was realized even at this time that Mr. Crocker's loss to this young community was a considerable blow. Yet life moved on and before another year had been rung in, the Armistice had been signed. On November 11, 1918, Germany made her surrender at Compiegne, France.

That Haworth came through the war practically unscathed is a blessing none will forget nor fail to appreciate. There were two fatalities, Harold Rowley and Sheldon Houston. War experiences and deprivations had sobered Haworth and matured it. The Borough was ready then, in the last days of its 'teens, to buckle down to business, the hard business of making itself a worthy inheritor of its blessings.

Haworth, still in the spirit of adolescence, still clinging to its ideals, awaited optimistically its next cue from "back stage".

## CHAPTER FIVE

# *In Its Coming of Age*

1920-1925

*T*HAT Haworth proved its worth as a community demonstrating the wonderful spirit of its make-up showed all through the war years in its answer to the tests and sacrifices that developed. Then, with the war terminated, how eagerly it rejoiced in the return of its overseas' men! And how eagerly it welcomed other war veterans who saw in this Bergen County community the type of life and living they had been fighting for and waiting for! The many new families arriving with the advent of the '20s brought a quality of men and women that Haworth had always prided itself in attracting. Immediately, too, these diligent people began to shoulder borough problems.

The war had taught the value of trained citizenry, so an organization of Boy Scouts was promptly effected through the leading efforts of Frank Hodges. Under the first Scout Committee, led by C. S. Lorentzen, C. S. Forbes, and A. M. Clark, with Walter Rohdenburg and Steve Wager as scout masters, the group soon became a potent factor of community life. In its first years, it was sponsored by the Haworth

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Woman's Club, also inaugurated in 1920, with Mrs. Amelia Walker as first president. The first Boy Scout Troop numbered among its members Frank Osmers, Jr., Bob Fink, Don Knapp, Horace Wheeler, Jr., Ed Tighe, Harold Emrich, and Fred Stier. They were concerned with various crafts and learning the basic requirements of scouting. Later troops did notable work for the Borough including the riddance of tent-caterpillars, that offensive scourge, so harmful to trees and shrubbery. It is a credit to Haworth that four of its boys have attained the status of "Eagle"—Lawrence Lewis, Donald Lewis, C. Vernon Carlson, Robert Taylor Schmidt. Egges Das, Scout Master in 1955, reports a strong organization of thirty-seven boys who are allied with the county group which comprises several thousand youngsters and runs "Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco."

The Haworth Woman's Club, celebrating its 35th anniversary in May 1955, looked back at its beginning years, recalling that in 1921, it had petitioned the Council to place a woman on the Board of Health; that in 1924, it had voted to support the State Zoning laws and that it had written to the Public Service Electric Company asking for better service; that, in 1925, it had helped to found a Parent-Teacher Association and that it had petitioned the Board of Education to institute a kindergarten in the school, to start an orchestra, and to include physical education

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courses in its curriculum. Mrs. B. P. Phyfe who followed Mrs. Walker as president was succeeded in 1926 by Mrs. R. H. Keith. Of the thirty-five charter members, only five reside in Haworth in 1955—Sara Bullard, Ethel Devlin, Helen Forbes, Gertrude Stewart, Katherine Wager.

There also developed in the '20s a Men's Club, an adjunct of the Congregational Church. One of the Y.M.C.A. buildings at Camp Merritt, then being dismantled, was transported to the church property to be used for their recreational activities. Henry Roden, Frank Gunnell, William McCulloch, Harry VanDusen were prime movers for this project. William Burgess ran movies in the building as soon as it opened. The Congregational Church, under Pastor Jones, used the Community House, as it was called, for its varying money-making efforts, Fairs, Suppers and Dramatic Entertainments. It had three sections, large auditorium, social room and kitchen. The Woman's Aid Society held their monthly meetings in the social room; here, under the presidency of Mrs. E. T. Hendrickson the women planned their Food Sales and their Donation Parties for the minister. The Community House, in spite of its baptism of heavy use at Camp Merritt served valiantly on Owatonna Street as the town's first community center.

In the winter of 1922 when W.O.R. was established as a radio broadcasting station in Newark—New

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Jersey is identified with some of the earliest experiments in broadcasting — a Haworth resident, Mrs. Marshall Olds, was chosen as the advertiser for Bamberger's. It was a signal honor, since women were only beginning to compete in the business world and since their voices were not yet considered suitable for advertising, and Mary Olds met the challenge for her sex with an ability of high powered salesmanship, heretofore unrealized.

Under Albion M. Clark as mayor, 1921-1925, Carroll Newell, Benjamin Orcutt, James Botz, Henry Miller, Horace Wheeler, Sr. became members of the Council. John Reynolds, who had just finished a short term as president of the Library Association was appointed Collector, a post he has held with distinction ever since. It was this Council which faced a demand from the townspeople that the railroad grade crossing be eliminated. Walter Roden was chosen to make the complaint. Known for his reserve, his poise, his cold reasoning ability, his quiet manner, he was thought to be the perfect one to present the people's case. His impassioned plea for "innocent children who might be killed" was surprisingly, extravagantly emotional! Eyes were wet. But ears were deaf. The grade-crossing remained. However, Walter's histrionic powers, so well demonstrated, were recommended to the committee who were then forming a dramatic group for the production of amateur theatri-

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cals, with the result that Walter Roden became Haworth's first "leading man". The performance was in "*Scrambled Wives*", a former Broadway three-act comedy, coached by Walter Lewis, who, from that time, made theatrical history for Haworth.

From that time, too, the Borough's development was marked by improved services. Robert Angus, who had acquired the grocery business from C. Y. Riker, was setting up a two deliveries per day service; Peter Nothelfer was operating a meat market; and Frank Sarg, oldest son of F. A., was doing the first service-station business of the Borough. Frank had clandestinely moved a small building from his father's property, probably one of the larger chicken-coops, to the corner of Schraalenburgh Road and Haworth Avenue and transformed it into a gas station. This move aroused a storm of objections from the townspeople. The Council took Sarg to court for invading a residential section, but because there were no zoning laws in effect, they failed to win their case and the gas station remained. This was Haworth's first challenge to work out suitable zoning in the Borough and it brought about the establishment of a Zoning Board of Adjustment, with Harry VanDusen as the first chairman (F. W. Schmidt is chairman in 1955). The gas station, now owned by Leon Soudant, managed by Gaston Michel, still serves as a warning beacon to all Zoning Boards who would retain the beautiful residen-

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tial character expected by Haworthians, old and new.

The beauty of Haworth has often been attributed to its trees. They are varied and splendid; in fact in a book called *Bergen County Panorama* written by the Writers' Program of the New Jersey Work Projects Administration, published in 1941, Haworth's trees are mentioned as "ancient trees towering to commanding heights." They are also the climax of a personal story that has been bruited, about one of the World War I veterans who, looking for a home site, remembered that when he was awaiting embarkation at Camp Merritt he had passed through a lovely tree-studded town. Alas, he did not remember its name! But pressed by the desire to live among beautiful trees, he returned to the Camp Merritt area, hired a taxi and set out to find his remembered love. At first he seemed not to succeed. It was not Bergenfield, Dumont, New Milford, not Harrington Park, Oradell nor Tenafly! Then suddenly, he found himself at "Tank Hill" on Schraalenburgh Road, looking down upon the lordly branches of the chestnuts and oaks on Haworth Avenue. In exaltation, he cried out to his wife, "Lily, this is it." And so it was that Haworth's trees made their first mark of historical significance by bringing Haworth's twelfth mayor, William Wilson, to be one of its residents.

With many new families arriving in the Borough, the school building was being taxed beyond its limits

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and a committee was appointed both to consider the matter of a more adequate building and to create a demand for it. However its actual work had hardly begun when in December 1922, the schoolhouse burned. That this contingency would bring the new building immediately proved an erroneous conclusion as there were too many supporters for a proposal to revamp the old structure. It took a large amount of work and of argument and a closely contested referendum to win the order for the new building. A matter of six votes decided the issue. While the new edifice was being erected, students were transferred to nearby Dumont schools, to Tenafly, and to the Community House for instruction. Miss Caroline Hendrickson was principal at this time, and those serving on the Board of Education included F. H. Hennessy, Irving Brown, W. D. Bullard, B. P. Phyfe, Newman Hamlink, W. C. Hall, Mrs. Ethel Devlin, and Mrs. Amelia Walker.

As the world was becoming accustomed to automobiles—twenty years now since the first in Haworth—it was being electrified by the feats of the first aeroplanes. "Traffic," a new word in the vocabulary referring only to vehicular street movements and regulated by signal lights at road intersections now for the first time, might soon be enlarged to include air travel and sky lanes. Who would venture a guess in 1923? Not even the Wright brothers who had had

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success already with their incredible flying machines. One of these first aeroplanes had landed unceremoniously on the golf course in front of the Fish residence. Again all Haworth came out to see, and to be entertained, for planes, so far, were merely “a laughing matter.” Another “laughing matter” had to do with the feats of another “first,” one of the Pharaohs of Egypt. He was Tutankhamen whose tomb had recently been unearthed. Tutankhamen, written up extravagantly in the New York City newspapers, now became the hero, as the buried King Scotch (it was Prohibition time in the United States) in a musical revue, called *“Toot-and-Come-In,”* written by Helen Phyfe, staged by Walter Lewis, and produced at the Community House on May 16, 1924. As a satire on Haworth notables—council members, artists, musicians, widows, various club presidents, scout masters—it brought many laughs. The scenes, which represented the exterior and interior of the king’s tomb, fantastically painted by Ward Leathers, who was well-known in the New York area for his commercial art, were background for amusing situations, dialogue, songs and dances. Songs were composed by Roz Newell and Bill Burgess; dances were arranged by Sue Shaw and Viola Brown; costumes were designed by Carrie Fletcher, and properties were contrived by Bob Fink, an artist like his illustrious father. Among the actors were Fred Downes, Alpheus Applegate,

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Ben Durant, Elise Carter, Alma Whiting, Bernice Hindle. As a whole it was a superlative exhibition of Haworth talent.

Walter Lewis and his wife, Florence, directed other amateur dramatics and for many years Haworth gave star performances, among them "*Under Cover*," "*A Full House*," "*Passing of the Third Floor Back*," "*Every Man*," and "*Outward Bound*." Both Walter and Florence had had Broadway experience and with their professional touch, it is little wonder that the "Benefits" of the day were successful. "*Under Cover*," with a cast including Fred Downes, Howard Prickett, Rosalind Newell, Bernice Hindle, was presented as a "Benefit" for the Boy Scouts. It netted \$535, not a trifling sum for a small town affair.

It would seem an appropriate commentary that the '20s were "play-time" in Haworth, yet that is hardly true, for as Haworth was coming of age, it was thinking in terms of Business. How much business should be encouraged. How little could be considered necessary. How much could be restricted. How little accepted.

Two home-town boys, the Delmage brothers, Alfred and John, the latter born in Haworth, who in the early days had had a morning and evening milk route serving their neighbors with raw milk (pasteurization was not practiced in those days) began, in these first years of the '20s, to do upholstery work for their

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Haworth friends. They had learned their trade at the Hampton Shop in New York City and now, as expert craftsmen, were making an initial start in the decorating business, operating from an enlarged garage back of their Whitman Street residence.

Emil Carlier, another home-town boy, started a plumbing business here with his father, yet he never had a store. He operated from his home with a truck and early established a nice reputation. Another plumber to do business in the Borough was Charles Rehman who lived on Valley Road and likewise had no store. When he became Borough Plumbing Inspector in 1936, he gave up his private business. He died suddenly in 1947, but his wife remains in town.

While the Sargs were selling gas at the top of "Tank Hill" a new garage was taking shape at Chestnut Bend, at the Borough's southern edge. Haworth's automobiles were multiplying and the need of mechanical service became pressing, so Alex Finley, the golf "pro" at the White Beeches Golf and Country Club started a repair shop. He was followed by Gene Cantzler who remained until the close of World War II when the Gangemi Brothers took it over. Still carrying its early name, "The Friendly Station," it is now operated by William Mansfield. The two gas stations are situated, in 1955, in non-conforming areas.

At the opposite end of Schraalenburgh Road, another type of business had been set up, called "The

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Barlae Kennels." Managed by Mr. and Mrs. Prentice, the kennels soon became well known in this area, their fame increasing when it was learned that a champion Scottie was housed here. Then when the Scottie's owner, author S. S. VanDine, presented the dog and the setting of the kennels as part of one of his most thrilling mysteries "*The Kennel Murder*," a stir of excitement pervaded Haworth while "Information Please" on the radio was stumped and unable to ferret out Haworth's most famous murderer!

From Barlae Kennels to Kipp's Crossing was no more than a stone's throw and as attention waned at the kennels, it intensified at the Crossing. Here, Kipp's store was being torn down by the West Shore Railroad Company and opposite (north side of present Lake Shore Drive) new and extensive Greenhouses\* were being built. It developed that J. H. Francis was preparing a florist's business and that here shrubs for border planting, the new fashion, could be selected under Mr. Francis' expert advice. It was a happy addition to the Borough's resources, conducive to the encouragement of beautifying local home sites. Mr. and Mrs. Francis themselves became active participants in town affairs, faithful supporters of the Congregational Church and the Library Association. Mrs. Francis served as Sunday School primary superintendent and as a librarian when the books were

\*These are owned in 1955 by Peter Schaefer.

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issued from the Community House during 1928-1938.

Beyond the limits of Haworth, business was also developing. The first motion-picture house, Oritani, named for Oratam, the chief of the Hackensackes of the Lenape tribe which peopled this area in the 1600s, opened its doors in 1921. It has proved an institution of high grade entertainment welcome to the neighborhood. Other movie theatres soon appeared in Englewood, and Bergenfield. There was one for a short while in Dumont. Other of the County's oldest retail establishments, Romaine's in Hackensack and Demarest's in Tenafly, underwent remodeling and overhauling in order to fill their shelves in line with customers' changed demands. Beauty Salons began to appear in Hackensack and Englewood to serve the women's cosmetic needs, now that Irene Castle, famous dancer, had popularized bobbed hair, and that Nestle, famous hairdresser, had introduced the joy of the "permanent wave."

Other new fashions were coming into vogue and in 1923 the arrival of the Reo fire truck, nicknamed "The Speed Wagon", to augment the fire company equipment, was another concrete evidence of this trend to bring the town up to date, a trend that was soon to be patterned in all organizations. The institution of the Holy Name Society of the Sacred Heart Church and the growth of the Rosary Society were other signs of the times, accenting the rise in

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Catholic families and the result of the campaign for Woman's Suffrage which had given women a new sense of their obligations.

A new fashion of merchandising was growing in favor—the roadside market. This innovation enabled the bonafide farmer to meet the competition of hucksters, selling door to door, a produce that they many times falsely claimed to be their own. The Bergen County Chamber of Commerce approved of this new mode and publicized it broadly. It was the forerunner of county demonstration work in home economics, developed by Mrs. Elizabeth Berdan who was named County Agent in 1924.

As is usually the case when renovations begin, the old things, becoming eye-sores, must go. So it was that the water tank atop "Tank Hill" falling into this category, was removed in April 1925. Since most people were using water supplied by the Hackensack Water Company there was no longer need for the excellent artesian-well water which had won Haworth the acclaim of the best water in the county. The removal job was done by W. C. Hall, contractor, but in the process of removal, the ungainly structure fell across Haworth Avenue, blocking the hill to all traffic and causing great confusion! The accident had no unfortunate results but it brought many onlookers to the scene and merited a large news item in *The Interborough Review*, the weekly newspaper serving

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Bergenfield, Dumont and Haworth. Following this, through the efforts of Republican County Committeeman Frederick W. Schmidt and Mayor Frank Surbeck, the Bergen County Board agreed to assume the expense of reducing the grade of "Tank Hill" by some 21% and the paving. This made an easier climb for both automobiles and pedestrians and also made the accompanying sidewalk rail unnecessary.

Within the Borough, all organizations were growing and seeking support, among them the Fire Company. The need for funds with which to increase its value prompted its officers (Fred W. Myles was president) to offer a fine entertainment in January, 1925. The program provides a glimpse of those talented residents who gave their services for the benefit of a town "cause," listing Mrs. O. Y. Harsen as pianist, Mrs. W. C. Hall as soprano soloist, Mr. Walter Lewis as recitationist, Mrs. F. C. Osmers as contralto soloist, Mr. C. T. Mortimer as violinist, and Mr. William Broughton as baritone soloist. Of an original fifty Fire Company membership, catalogued on the last page, only three are Haworth residents thirty years later, Paul Shade, Christian Lorentzen and William McGloin. The wives of four others still make Haworth home, Mrs. Carlton Oren, Mrs. Stephen Wager, Mrs. William Bullard, and Mrs. Fred Bender.

Within the wider bounds of county and state, all groups were impressed with the importance of "The

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Dawes' Reparation Plan" and the evacuation of the French troops from the Ruhr, believing them to augur a peaceful era for the future. In 1925, when Peace seemed securely settled over the horizons of America and Europe, some 900 people resided in the Borough. In 1925, Haworth reached its twenty-first birthday! There was a noticeably confident feeling abroad, mixed with pride, as D. deLancey Hendrickson took the oath of office and became the sixth mayor. Associated with him were five new members—Harry Disbecker, Frank Surbeck, Fred Myles, Edward Leighton, Byron Hooper.

No more than a glance around the county is needed to show that while Haworth is fitting into the pattern of expansion, it is a pattern being influenced by an intricate network of municipal, county and state highways soon to converge at the George Washington Bridge, a handsome structure connecting Fort Lee, New Jersey, and 179th Street, New York City. With the Bridge barely begun, the ever-mounting traffic problem led the two states, New York and New Jersey, under "The Port Authority" to consider the possibility of another Hudson River crossing, which culminated in a tunnel crossing from Hoboken, New Jersey to West 40th Street, New York City. These plans in the minds of state and county officials as early as 1925 evidenced an appreciation that transportation was one of the basic considerations in the drama of Ber-

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gen County life increasing daily in its importance.

Haworth, now wearing the mantle of Maturity, entering the Bergen County stage from "the wings", immediately assumed a role of responsibility among her older sister boroughs.

## CHAPTER SIX

### *In Its Prime*

1926-1945

*M*OST MEN, on becoming of age, begin to think about getting married, and no sooner is that accomplished than they are conscious of the biggest problem they ever had—how to live with the little woman! Haworth, too, at this same moment, was conscious of its new problem—how to adjust itself so as to live with its growing population. Such large numbers of people had come to live in Haworth in the '20s, so many traditional customs and habits were outgrown, that it was necessary to think and plan in new terms.

A first change was needed in the Police Department, where the old marshal system, started under the first mayor, was still in effect. So, during Mr. Hendrickson's term as mayor, 1925-1927, with a council augmented by James Botz, Edward Leighton, William Mahony, Fred Myles, Frank Surbeck, Horace Wheeler, Sr. and Byron Hooper, a Police Department was authorized. Edward J. Menze (Eddie) became the new police officer, with a police car put at his disposal, a Chevrolet roadster, replacing the former Indian motorcycle. Immediately, too, demand for

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a Planning Board was heard, a committee larger in scope than the Zoning Board of Adjustment and one to work in cooperation with it and with the county group. It seems that the Haworth Woman's Club had a hand in this. The Club's Garden Department was very active and among its enthusiasts was Mrs. E. T. Hendrickson, who owned a home on Schraalenburgh Road. One March day, she watched with dismay the wanton cutting down of some fine old trees opposite her lovely stretch of garden. It hurt her sense of beauty, so she quickly appealed to her garden group, who in turn appealed to the Council, requesting and recommending a study of detailed plans to safeguard destruction of such places and to maintain natural beauty to the best advantage of the Borough. Before the Board was finally organized, however, town improvements were not forgotten.

It is true that all the boroughs, Haworth among them, were projecting additional improvements in road building and street paving and in enacting many new ordinances affecting civic life. Laws to ensure safe driving, now that the age of the automobile had been reached, and to provide punishment for drunken drivers, were passed. Yet laws did not eliminate the train of ill effects which an unfortunate reaction from the war produced. Rather it was an awakening to the importance of recreational facilities and to the value of social organizations maintained by

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individual churches, as well as to the impact of such benefits as those offered by cultural groups, the Civic Music Association, the Little Theatre, the Woman's Clubs, the exhibits of arts and handicrafts, and the increase in the services of the libraries.

In the Haworth Library, not yet municipally owned, Paul T. Shade had become president and, as it was his persisting theory that one third of income-expenditure should be made for books, other services remaining at a minimum, the shelves were constantly being restocked, with an acceptance of the volunteer efforts of the Librarians and the Board for other services. On the Board at this time were A. B. Gilbert, J. H. Reynolds, Mrs. Phyfe and Miss Bessie Crocker.

In the Woman's Club, with Mrs. R. H. Keith as President (1926-1928) the women were hearing constructive addresses by State Senator William Mackay on "Local and Federal Legislation," Miss Sara Askew, New Jersey State Librarian on "Children's Reading," Judge William Seufert on "Children's Delinquency," and Mrs. Amelia Burr Elmore, from Englewood, reading her own delightful and inspirational poetry.

At the White Beeches Golf and Country Club sport history was being made, for in 1926, Mauréen Orcutt won the Women's Metropolitan Amateur Golf Championship. Maureen had grown up close to the Haworth golf course; in fact one might say she grew up *on* the golf course! Her stardom, which began in

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her 'teens, was long-lived, for she won the championship five times consecutively, and was also runner-up for the National Championship. In 1954, Maureen again captured this championship.

Again, in 1926, the Woman's Club took action in behalf of its Borough, petitioning the West Shore Railroad to install a swinging light as signal at the Haworth Avenue crossing of the tracks. Yet, before this was done, a tragic accident occurred, and the Reverend George W. Richards, minister of the Congregational Church, was killed. The tragedy shocked the small community, for Mr. Richards, who had come only recently to the church to replace Reverend Mr. Jones, was greatly respected. In the following March, Edwin T. Buehrer was called to the church to become its third spiritual leader.

Again, in the Woman's Aid Society, new groups were taking up active duties under the leadership of Mrs. Harry VanDusen and Mrs. Otis Harsen, successive presidents. The Society had grown from thirty-five members in 1910 to an eighty-six membership in 1926.

Haworth's welfare was the vital concern not only of the churches but also of various residents, and there were none more zealous in her behalf than Frederick W. Schmidt, a World War I veteran, returned with his family, wife Rae, daughter Betty and son Robert, to live in the Borough in the early '20s.

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Seeing many avenues of helpfulness in the American Legion, in 1926, he helped organize Haworth Post #13 and was its first Commander. The group of veterans, most of whom arrived very shortly after the close of the war, has since borne out Mr. Schmidt's hopes for altruistic work. The Legion has, year after year, awarded medals, in its Americanization Program, to the outstanding boy and girl in the grammar school graduating class. It has, year after year, donated books of worthwhile merit to the Library. It has steadily concerned itself with important welfare work among its members and has sponsored the Boy Scout Troop since 1927. Of the thirty-six charter members, there are twelve, besides Mr. Schmidt, still residing in Haworth — Robert H. Angus, M. Edwin Birkins, William Bedell, Alfred Delmage, Emil Erichsen, Wilbur LeCompte, Ed Menze, Alfred Meyer, Harry Matthews, Clifton Miller, William McGloin, Albert Spencer. Mr. Schmidt, who is a typographer of national reputation, has benefited many a Haworth good cause by his support and as a Trustee of the Congregational Church, he has given distinguished service both under B. P. Phyne, as president of the Board, and as president himself during the '40s.

When the American Legion Post received from the War Department a 250 millimeter German field-piece, it was installed in the west-side station park as a memorial gift to the Borough. Thereafter, Memorial Serv-

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ices have been observed on each May 30th. The custom, annually followed, is to climax the parade, all organizations cooperating, with a Legion ritual service at the grammar school and a laying of wreaths at the trees which have been planted to honor deceased town officials and service men. As the Legion has grown in size over the years, it has never forgotten its traditions.

Horace Wheeler, Sr. became mayor in 1927, assisted by Jerome Behrend, Edward Leighton, Edwin Mahn, William Mahony, Fred Myles, Frank Surbeck and George Lane. It was a period when the Fire Company was increasing its equipment for improved town protection. The Hardenburgh Avenue Fire House was erected during Wheeler's incumbency, when William McGloin was Fire Chief and the first motor-driven engine was acquired. The Road Department was also organized and the first road equipment purchased. Wilbur LeCompte served as Road Foreman. Garbage collection was instituted, managed by Joseph LoPiccolo and Sam Sisco. Paul Stewart, as head of the Department, worked faithfully to give the Borough the best possible facilities, including a Greenhouse, a Tool House, and Borough Garage. Mr. Stewart's death in 1954 was widely mourned.

Borough affairs, like all other activities, came to a respectful halt on June 13, 1927, when a tremendous ovation was given to Charles A. Lindbergh upon the

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aviator's return from France following his memorable 33-hour solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean to Le-Bourget Field. Many of the town's men, women, and children took part in the New York City welcome, reveling in the excitement of the ticker-tape shower rained upon the returning hero. Later when Lindbergh married a neighbor, Anne Morrow, of Englewood, there was further satisfaction for those who had had a share in paying the young man tribute. And another satisfaction when, after the election of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952, Charles Lindbergh was named a Brigadier General in the United States Army! In 1955, his life story, *The Spirit of St. Louis* (published in 1953) is being made into a motion picture.

Even if Borough affairs had a way of seething politically, and factions had a way of dividing into sharp rivalries at election times, the community was always united in supporting its local talent. It turned out in full force to enjoy a musicale on October 30, 1927, when the participants were all Haworth-bred; A. M. Applegate, tenor soloist; George Pert, Carl Nelson, E. Diringer and A. M. Applegate, quartet; Miss Ray Scott and Mrs. Felicie Hall, soprano soloists; Una Har森, pianist; Eva McCulloch, organist; Paul T. Shade, director.

It was united as well in 1927 in a demand that the curriculum of the grammar school be scrutinized and

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modernized. The result brought in a man as principal, Carlton H. Springer, who served until 1935; and a Parent-Teacher Association which agreed to function as a liaison between parents, teachers, and pupils. It was a move of advancement, although there were many who regretted the departure of Miss Caroline Hendrickson from the post she had served so faithfully since 1919. But Progress is never sentimental and the size of the school warranted an enlarged staff. Only one more year and Haworth population will have doubled its figure of twenty-five years ago!

The real estate boom throughout the county had now started in earnest. Land valuations were increasing and all facilities — highways, sewers, parks and parkways, airfields — were matters of consideration. The Bergen County Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in 1927 with Edmund W. Wakelee as its first president. Then, as the jazz-age neared its peak, with the signs of the times in women's ultra short skirts, bobbed-hair styles, in the new habit of women smoking and the general populace drinking, with roadside petting parties common and late night-hours prevalent, Prosperity was leaping to a new and wonderful high. Yet it was destined to be short-lived for in October of 1929, the stock market which had been rising fantastically for seven years, suddenly, like Humpty-Dumpty, took a great fall! A depression followed. There was widespread unemployment and

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one remembers with dismay that galaxy of capital letters, W.P.A., N.R.A., O.P.A., C.C.C., which designated government subsidized organizations. The government undertook to aid Haworth's unemployed by building a swimming pool, north of Haworth Avenue and opposite the Congregational Church, but before it was finished, it was condemned by the Hackensack Water Company in fear of drinking-water contamination. The pool was therefore abandoned and all there was to show for the effort was a weed-ridden hole and a dam. In 1955, plans are being laid for a town-common at this location.

When Frank Surbeck was serving as mayor, 1929-1935, with the following councilmen, Jerome Behrend, Edmund Decker, Edwin Mahn, Fred Myles, Frank Osmers, Jr., John Reynolds, Paul Stewart, Ward Leathers and Ernest H. West, the Haworth Library became a municipally owned, free, public library, (January 1, 1930). Mr. Paul T. Shade, who had first been appointed to head the Trustee Board of the Library Association in 1924, was retained as president, a position he has held with distinction until his regretted resignation in May 1955. The trustees appointed by the new mayor included, besides Mr. Shade, Mr. William Mahony, Mr. E. T. Buehrer, Mr. Charles Kennedy, and Mrs. Phyne. This change to a free library had excellent effects on book circulation, and the Borough, as well as the Library, felt an imme-

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diate boost in prestige, both helpful and salutary.

Further prestige was gained when a ceremony, dedicating a gift of oak trees for the George Washington Bridge Plaza (October 1931) mentioned Haworth's participation in the 70-town-project. Mrs. Joseph Devlin represented Haworth when the bronze tablet was set in place. In December of 1931 an ordinance had passed the Council establishing the Planning Board and Mrs. Devlin was named to chair this important addition to Haworth's municipal government. This Planning Board, which from time to time included such forward-looking men as Charles C. Littlefield, Frank Osmers, Jr., Ward Leathers, Edmund Decker, Robert Patterson, Alpheus Applegate, Alfred Renier, Charles Crowe, Theodore Rohdenburg, Walter Tavender, and Fred Harsen, came to be the prime mover in keeping in the forefront the plan of Haworth as envisioned by its founders. The Board in 1955 has as its chairman Edwin Emrich with John Larsen, Richard Belcher, Douglas McEachron, Paul LaRue, Carl Steinmetz, Karl Rice, as members, A. C. Hobelman, as Engineer, and Mrs. Marion Dunn, Secretary.

With the beautiful trees as a particular attraction of Haworth, it was a matter of both regret and consternation that it was noticed, in 1931, that the chestnut trees were dying. Some dire pest was infesting them and no cure seemed possible so it was finally

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decided that the chestnut trees must be cut down. The ones opposite the Congregational Church were the first to feel the axe, those trees which had been used as a dividing line between the Phyfe-Mount farms, those which were estimated to be three hundred years old, which had stood so majestically in the central parkway! In their stead, Mr. Paul Stewart, Road Commissioner, planted groups of evergreens. It was hardly a commensurate substitution, yet for those who never saw the chestnuts, it is highly satisfactory.

In this same year, the Borough was saddened by the death of Father DeVincenit who had guided the Sacred Heart Parish for fifteen years. The Reverend Father S. J. Reichert came to succeed him. And in this same year also there was a material catastrophe when the White Beeches Club House was destroyed by fire. It occurred while the Woman's Club was presenting an original play *Siege Within Siege* written by Mrs. Eleanor Kuhns, in competition for awards at the New Jersey State Convention. To those who were members of the Drama Department, it will hardly be necessary to recall the occasion. When the cars, bearing the actresses and the committee, returned from their Trenton excursion, they found their home town blanketed in smoke. Immediately, every woman thought it was *her* house that was on fire! The chorus of emitted fears rose as high as the thickening smoke. It took some level heads to get through not only the smoke but the

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general fright and confusion! The next year a new building on the old foundation was completed and opened to a membership proud of its handsome Colonial clubhouse.

Two new publications were of great interest at this time, *The March of Democracy* by James Truslow Adams and *Expression in America* by Ludwig Lewisohn, and in Haworth, as well as in these current books, one could see the spirit of America and its method of attacking world problems. A Forum of young people was instituted in 1932, led by Janet Cook. This group discussed topics of the day, political, economic and philosophical. And within the departments of the Woman's Club, International Relations and Civics were primary interests. Such speakers as William R. Browne (Freeholder) on “Taxes and Taxation”; F. T. Warner\* (Naval Architect) on “Planning Civic Centers of Beauty” and F. H. Hennessy (Borough Attorney) on “New Laws for Women” were heard. Problems of democracy were being worked out and women were given positions of responsibility—Mrs. Kathryn Angus on the Board of Education, Mrs. Florence Decker on the Congregational Church Board of Trustees, Mrs. Ethel Devlin on the Red Cross staff. Mrs. Gertrude Stewart was made clerk of the Board of Education (she

\*This same Fred Warner later designed McCulloch Place, one of the beautiful sections of the 1955 Borough.

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serves to the present day); Mrs. Ruth Keith was doing pioneer work for the promotion of friendly relations among nations, for concern over conditions in Europe was evident. Hitler was coming to power in Germany and many townspeople, among other Americans, were backing Herbert Hoover in the White House to struggle against the pressures of political unrest.

It took a brave man to start a business in these questionable '30s yet Joseph Guarino brought to Terrace Street one of the best markets of the day. At first, he sold only meats, but soon included groceries and made two deliveries a day. As owner of the store building, he was instrumental in influencing the right kind of merchandising for Haworth. His own business prospered and his influence grew. It was a great sorrow when his death came in 1954.

In these early '30s there were women who kept the Sacred Heart Church abreast of its needs, Mrs. Eagan, Mrs. Albaum, the Misses Meuthe, Mrs. Forti, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. McGloin, Mrs. Roach, Mrs. McClain, Mrs. Vervlied, Mrs. O'Brien. Their card parties raised the money for Altar linens, cassocks, linoleum for the floors, tables and chairs, while their loving care provided flower arrangements for the Altar and special decorations at Christmas and Easter, as well as attention to the building before weddings and funerals. Their small number at

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monthly meetings, averaging twelve or less, was no barometer of the height of their accomplishments.

As the '30s displaced the distorted disturbances of the '20s, the Planning Board, taking a look into the future and envisioning a possible 1970 population of from eight to ten thousand if the residential frontages continued at a 50 foot minimum, set to work on a Master Plan for the zoning and development of the Borough, a plan to clarify purposes, to define limits, to list controlling considerations, and in the end to keep Haworth a community for the Business of Living rather than for the Living of Business. Those who were instrumental in formulating the resulting Master Plan Report were A. M. Applegate, chairman, T. H. Rohdenburg, R. D. Patterson, C. C. Littlefield, and Edwin Emrich.

As the '30s advanced, the popularity of radio began to soar. Two well-known and well-loved characters of the serial dramas and the "soap operas" lived in Haworth. They were mother and daughter, "Myrt and Marge" who wrote their skits and performed them. They were heard on W.O.R. for a long time, until the death of the daughter brought an end to the team's productions. (Myrt's home is the present Morrison home on Prospect Avenue, in the Manor.) Haworth was proud, also, of a singer, Hubert Hendrie, who belonged to a radio quartet and who with his equally talented wife contributed generously

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to making money for many and varied worthy causes.

One such herculean effort was to remodel or replace the Community House, which had suffered hard wear even before it was moved from Camp Merritt and which now had fifteen years in Haworth credited to it. It showed the urgent need for repair yet the Woman's Aid Society (Mrs. Horace Norton, President) was loath to restore this very inadequate structure so an active campaign was initiated for a new Parish House. A series of plays, devoted to this goal, were presented in 1933. The first and second, *The Florist Shop* and *Between the Soup and the Savory* were coached by Mrs. Edmund Decker, with Mrs. E. T. Buehrer, the minister's wife, starring in them. The third was a Lenten drama, John Masefield's *Good Friday* in which Woolsey Bill, William Wilson, William Bedell and Edwin Emrich were prominent. Directed by Helen Phyfe, this was presented behind curtains, as a radio drama. These were popular now that radios were in practically every home. The Parish House, however, did not become a reality until 1950 and that it was built and paid for, at that date, is largely due to the untiring and assiduous efforts of Mrs. Edna Meyer, Mrs. Elfreda Miller, and Mrs. Ruth Cundall.

Among Haworth's outstanding labors were those of the women who have had the interests of the young girls at heart. A unit of Girl Scouts was formed in

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1934 by Mrs. Julia Hudson. It was called "The Betsy Ross Troop," functioning as part of the Oradell Council. Their annual cake sale on Election Day is always a success as is their cookie sale and their collection project for the Cerebral Palsy Fund. They have flourished so well as to have, in 1955, two troops with a total numbering seventy girls. Mrs. Clinton Simmons and Mrs. Mortimer Drum are their present leaders.

With the United States pushing its war industries in the face of Germany's ominous look, and beginning a slow recovery from the devastating depression which had hit in 1933, Haworth could be congratulated that it had as its mayor Frank C. Osmers, Jr. (1935-1937), and that on its council were such able men as Ernest H. West, William Kuhns, and Charles C. Littlefield. Others collaborating on the Council throughout this difficult period were Ward Leathers, Edward Schram, Charles Crowe and Horace Wheeler, Jr. Although Frank Osmers, Jr. was the youngest mayor Haworth had had, he was an efficient one and other eyes, politically sagacious, were upon him so that after his first year in office, he was prevailed upon to run for State Assemblyman from Bergen County. His success in the New Jersey Assembly was only the first step in his noteworthy political career, which, in spite of the interruption of long and honorable war service, has brought him to Congress again in 1954 as the representative from the ninth congressional

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district of New Jersey, which also includes Haworth.

When Osmers left Haworth municipal government for the state government, the mayor's gavel was handed to Charles Connon Littlefield, 1937-1943. The Borough housekeeping was in good order yet it took the perspicacity and the perseverance of such a faithful worker as Charles Littlefield to keep the mounting costs of government within bounds. Assisted by E. H. West, Alfred Kuehne, John Pascher, Horace Wheeler, Jr., Robert Patterson, Herbert Painter, William Bedell, Albert Ettinger, Herman Antstatt, Sr., Eugene Herter and William Wilson, the corps struggled through the after-effects of the depression-paralysis and kept Haworth out of the "red." No group of men ever worked with more consecration for the welfare of their borough.

The best minds of both the local and the county councils were challenged not only with economic problems but with the problem of growing vehicular traffic. Large sums were being expended by the State for highway additions and Bergen County's share was enormous. However, with the introduction of bus service, with buses traveling the Schraalenburgh Road, the Knickerbocker Road, and the County Road, commuter life was made easier and more convenient. So again Progress moved! And the trolley which had formerly been vital sank into disuse.

As new services entered into the Borough's civic

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life, so too new personalities entered into its church and school life. Both at the Congregational Church and at the Grammar School, there were new heads. Reverend Fred B. Eutsler replaced Reverend E. T. Buehrer and Henry Kauffman was appointed to take the place of Paul Meadows, who followed Carlton Springer in 1935. A reorganization of the school curriculum was then effected with the accent on departmental teaching. In the Borough family, there was a new Assessor, Walter Rohdenburg, who had been prevailed upon to assume the duties upon the untimely death of Edmund Decker. Rohdenburg's competence has been such as to assure him the position to the present writing.

Under the planning of Charles Littlefield, Herbert Paynter and Edwin Emrich, tennis courts were built at the Park north of the railroad station, in a design to create additional recreational benefits for the townspeople. At Memorial Day Exercises in 1937, the Woman's Club, through the offices of Mrs. F. W. Schmidt, President, presented a drinking fountain of pleasing beauty and promising usefulness. It remains in use for the tennis players in 1956. A tennis committee, whose first members, besides Paynter and Emrich, were George Dunn, John Schmid, David Hearn and Harold Emerson, still carries on, and in 1954, the Mayor's Trophy, initiated in 1935 by Frank Osmers, Jr., and a Junior Champion's Cup, donated

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by Edwin Emrich, were presented to the winners of the Labor Day Tournament. This is an annual event always much enjoyed. In 1954, the original trophies were given to the 1954 champions, Brian Emerson and his brother Kim.

The Cub Scout Troop, organized in 1937 by John Hindle, quickly became an important feature of civic endeavor, demonstrating that Haworth's thoughtful citizens were concerned with the training of their young boys and were willing as usual to devote their spare time and their energy to it. Their big brothers the Boy Scouts were being led by Harold Emerson. The interest of the youngsters in their contests, in their camping expeditions, and in their town projects kept them from some of those young-boy escapades which in the earlier days had caused parental headaches. Not enough can be said for these men whose influence has relieved Haworth of delinquency problems.

A glimpse into a 1938 issue of *The Weekly Calendar of the Congregational Church* reveals others who were in positions of influence — Mrs. E. I. Decker, Superintendent of the Church School, Mrs. Sidney Wheeler, Superintendent of the Primary, Mrs. C. T. Miller, President of the Woman's Aid Society. Frank C. Osmers, Sr., President of the Board of Trustees, Otis Y. Harsen, B. P. Phyfe, and E. I. Decker, Deacons. A glimpse into the pages of *Reminiscences*,

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written about this time, gives a picture of a church congregation — Granddaddy Leathers in the front pew, cupping his half-deaf ear with his right hand, Frank Osmers sitting close behind, Edith Pert and little Mary next, and back of Helen and Ben Phyfe, Bess Crocker alongside the lovely stained-glass window which the congregation placed there in memory of her father; directly opposite, Otis, Una and Fred Harsen, the Greasons, the Das family, and Mr. and Mrs. Anstatt, Sr.; then in the back middle section, Fred and Alice Myles, Gertrude Shade, Fred and Laura Potter, and over under the beautiful stained-glass east window, given by Christian Bambach in memory of his parents, Fred and Rae Schmidt, Jack and Bernice Hindle with their children Marilynn and Brud, with the A. J. Stewarts back of them, the Seelys, the Wheelers, Helen Littlefield, Cora Oren, Edna Meyer, and next, Gertrude and Erving Fish and Minnie Tompkins. And in the Choir Loft Mrs. LoPiccolo at the organ and George Pert with his baton aloft. And Eleanor Stewart singing the anthem solo!

A glimpse into the new library location in a store owned by Joe Guarino at the south end of Terrace Street discovers a fine selection of new equipment, and an enlarged Junior Department, and the Librarian, Mrs. Caroline Renier, appointed in 1933, at the new receiving-desk. The Library is open now (1938)

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three afternoons and two evenings every week.

Neighbors to the new library location were the Cowan Store, formerly owned by R. H. Angus, and the Charles Olson Store, taken over now by George Dunn. Mrs. Cowan's store merchandised groceries while the Dunn Store sold magazines, toys, liquors, candies and the ever-popular ice cream sodas. Behind its counter, Eddie Sexton who was introduced at the Angus Store, greeted customers along with George Dunn and both soon became essential to Haworth's business life. In nearby Bergenfield, the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company was opening a much heralded supermarket (April 1938) and bringing the self-service principle in grocery merchandising to Bergen County. It was shortly after this that Joe Guarino remodeled his store and applied the same principle, which is in vogue today.

When the New York World's Fair opened in April 1939, Haworth had a special interest in it because twenty of its beautiful trees (water maples) had been selected by the World's Fair Committee and transplanted from Haworth park areas to the Flushing Meadows Fair site. Thus, a second time, Haworth's trees were destined for historical fame!

Yet 1938 and 1939 were troubled years, for Germany had taken over Austria (March 1938), occupied the Sudetenland (October 1938), and there were many fears of her further incursions. There was a

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feverish uncertainty abroad in all communities and when England found herself at war with Germany in 1939, in spite of Chamberlain's dictum of "peace in our time," the fear rose to a frantic pitch that the United States would become embroiled. Yet life in the churches, in the clubs, in the town organizations tried to continue with forthright vigor but as 1939 waned, so too the hope died that war could be averted and Haworth's young men were again being called to the colors!

In 1939, when the war situation loomed terrifyingly ominous, another danger was sensed, that the young students in the schools were being indoctrinated with socialistic dogma. The American Legion Post #13 alerted its members and a committee was named to examine the school books which were the principal offenders, and which according to the author's statement were written to develop a new climate of opinion favorable to a new social order. On further investigation other unusual and questionable writings and philosophies were discovered.

While the committee, headed by Albert Ettinger, son of W. L. Ettinger, long-time New York City School System Superintendent, stirred up a hornet's nest of conflicting opinions, they carried this early fight against the inroad of Communism within our schools and influenced the Board of Education to discard the books as material for study. Ettinger was

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aided by E. H. West and F. W. Schmidt in this historic intellectual struggle, which was the forerunner of later national investigations of textbooks.

With the coming of 1940, while Charles Littlefield was still mayor, the war fever mounted in intensity. Then Haworth gave itself wholeheartedly to civilian defense work, a total of two hundred fifty people contributing their services. A medical unit was prepared for emergencies, comprising nurses, first-aiders, and ambulance drivers; a rescue and repair squad was put in readiness, this including men and trucks; a police auxiliary was inaugurated, this to make use of women workers for day duties; a control center was improvised, this to receive and disseminate air-raid wardens' reports; a salvage committee was set up, this group to collect metals, rubber, paper, rags and tin cans; a canteen unit was started, this group to hold classes in nutrition and to plan and cook menus suitable for serving under disaster conditions; fire company auxiliaries were added, these to augment the fire-protection services. All this was relative to the war. Yet Haworth council members were mindful, as well, of Haworth's future and they passed a Sanitary Code and a new Zoning Ordinance which increased the minimum plot size to a frontage of 75 feet with a minimum plot requirement of 7500 square feet. They were alert too to the necessity of maintaining the Planning Board and of carrying out its

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proposals and were grateful, especially, that the outstanding work of C. C. Littlefield, as Haworth Planning Board Chairman, won him an appointment on the Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee. In 1940, too, when the Germans were walking into Paris and England had suffered its Dunkirk defeat, Haworth sensing its home needs voted \$20,000 for a school addition. And in October, when England was undergoing its most terrific bombing, Haworth was at work carrying out its government's plans for registering and conscripting its man-power.

The '40s brought many drastic changes to the world, changes which Haworth quickly reflected. A feeling of urgency permeated every strata of life. Boys in uniform felt they must marry promptly without any undue delay of courtship; girls felt they must not finish schooling but must enter the Services as Nurses, Wacs and Waves; men felt they must redouble their energies in industry; women felt they must use their spare time in canteen units and hospitality projects for troops. Groups again organized for Defense Stamp and Bond selling. Everybody put his and her every ounce of strength into the war prosecution. Changes in living habits were only a part of the developing picture. As women, like men, went into munition factories and airplane plants, a new comraderie grew up between them; as domestic help became scarce, men and women home-owners began

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doing chores they had not, on a wide scale, heretofore performed—mowing lawns, cultivating gardens, cooking, cleaning, sewing. Home building, even repairing, came to a virtual standstill. Material as well as labor was short. Weather reports were discontinued on the radio and commentators were broadcasting war news and appraisals, and linking the small communities like Haworth to the momentous events. Plane Spotters and Ground Corps Observers were watching the skies for enemy marauders and uniforms were growing more numerous on the streets. *The Bergen Evening Record* and *The Interboro Review* were publishing lists of names in the Draft Call and Haworth families scanned these lists with pardonable trepidation.

With the success of the North African campaign, which involved the first fighting of American forces, Haworth redoubled its war backing. The Haworth Woman's Club which from its inception had been civic-minded—its leaders in the '30 to '40 decade were Mrs. L. B. Harrison, Mrs. Joseph Devlin, Mrs. C. S. Lorentzen, Mrs. F. W. Schmidt, Mrs. William Brugmann—now concerned itself with a project at Fort Dix. A call from the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs had come in October '41 to outfit club recreation rooms there—a task which meant the quick amassing, transporting and arranging of furniture suitable for club-room enjoyment, a task which,

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under the directing hand of Mrs. F. W. Schmidt, was wonderfully executed. Through Mr. Surbeck's generosity, space and heat were provided in the post-office building where the work of repairing furniture, making slip-covers and upholstering chairs was carried on. Through Mr. Herter's kindness, a truck was donated for transporting the furniture from Haworth to Fort Dix. Through Mrs. Schmidt's unstinted giving of time and labor, with the help of Mrs. Harmon and Mrs. Hunzinger, the furnishing of the Fort Dix rooms was accomplished. These were ready by December and on December 7, 1941 Japanese planes struck at the United States Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor!

The announcement of the horrifying disaster was heard by most of the Sunday radio listeners in Haworth homes, as well as by the G.I.'s in the Fort Dix Recreation Rooms, just opened. It was a heart-rending announcement. Who will ever forget that "moment of infamy"? So, from this moment, the war turned westward, complicating the problems of its solution. Yet at no time did America, nor Haworth in its small way, falter at the task. Greater consecration and concentration followed. The year 1942 saw greater sacrifices but it developed as well better defenses and methods for solving the war emergencies. Shortages were met as a matter of course. Gasless days, when no cars were allowed on the streets, were

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accepted with no complaints. Rationing was stoically undertaken. Tires, cigarettes, shoes, sugar, meats, and other food items were on the list. The Rationing Committee consisted of Eugene Herter, chairman, F. W. Schmidt and Robert Hunzinger. War Loan Drives were initiated for the sale of Defense Bonds, in the early stages; for Victory Bonds, in the later years, and Haworth citizens subscribed loyally to a total of more than a million dollars' worth. There were nine such Drives, all captained by Mr. Edwin Emrich, augmented by a Woman's Division which was led by Mrs. B. P. Phyfe. Haworth families were willing to serve in any post in order to aid the victory of the real heroes—the men and women in the armed services.

As the war proceeded, more and more soldiers were being sent overseas, a circumstance inducing the formation of a Service Men's Committee. The selection of a chairman for this committee, which was the first of its kind in Bergen County, fell upon Mrs. Schmidt, who again, as in the Fort Dix assignment, worked untiringly. Through this channel, gifts were sent to United States fighting forces, reading matter was supplied, and food of various kinds distributed. Later, with the Library cooperating, a book was sent as a Christmas gift to every Haworth service man and woman. Letters, regularly written, were a part of the morale-building in which this wonderful committee

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ventured. Haworth fighting men attested to the unusual attention they received from their homefolks—the envy of other G.I.'s.

In 1943, under advice of the Victory Garden Committee (Chairman, Mrs. Joseph Devlin), it became the patriotic duty of every resident to plant a garden. Haworth's response was as wholehearted in raising vegetables as it was in raising its quotas in all fields. The Air-raid Wardens' Committee (Chairman, Mr. Harlan Dennison) advised plans for having in readiness a blackout room in every house and the school auditorium was designated as the official air-raid shelter. The Red Cross Branch (Chairman, Mrs. John Thornton) solicited workers for more sewing and knitting projects. The U.S.O. Unit (Mrs. Richard Houghton, Chairman) provided entertainment and refreshments at near-by Camp Shanks, while the Dieticians' Unit, headed by Mrs. R. H. Angus, supplied kitchen helpers and dieticians for the understaffed Bergen Pines Hospital in Oradell. The Surgical Dressings Unit (Chairman, Mrs. R. D. Patterson) undertook a course for instructors, while the War Activities Committee (Chairman, Mrs. Joseph Devlin) called for fifty women to serve in an organization which would give Haworth complete civilian protection day and night. Air-raid sirens, blackouts, discouraging news from the war-fronts—all, part of the 1943 picture! Then a change of pace in 1944 and new

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hope with the success of the Normandy invasion (June 6th) and the Battle of Leyte Gulf (October 22-27)!

When the war ended by the surrender of the German armies on May 8, 1945, and later on August 14, 1945, by the surrender of the Japanese army, a new mayor, Herman Anstatt, Sr., 1943-1946, was at the head of the council table, where Robert Hunzinger, Mortimer Drum, Douglas McEachron, Fred Knarre, and Edward Keller were latest additions. It was auspicious for Haworth that in the prime of its life, at a crucial period in its development, it had the capable steering of excellent mayors and dependable councilmen. It was auspicious, too, that yet in the prime of its life, it could turn its thoughts again to normal living and focus attention on the younger generation in whom lay the hope for the future. (A Brownie Troop was organized in 1945 by Mrs. Weichel and Mrs. Pearman, growing to six troops and a ninety-five membership by 1955.) It was auspicious for Haworth also that, in the prime of its life, it had had a part in winning a war against dictatorships and that it had brought to a maximum of development its share of progress.

Haworth now stepped "center stage" to face its post-war problems and to grapple with the ramifications to which the growth of the whole metropolitan district was leading.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### *In Its Maturity*

1946-1955

To a maturing Haworth "the flight to the suburbs", now prevalent, meant a burden of responsibility, a condition uncalculated by its founding fathers. It had been gaining in momentum since the close of World War II. The picture of the serene quiet of early farm-living changed by transportation advances into the simple tenor of commuter-type life, had changed again into a complex form of heterogeneous living by sheer force of numbers! Haworth was well aware of its problem as Mayor Anstatt and his Council demonstrated when they made, early in 1946, a revision to the Zoning Ordinance establishing a one-class residence zone, thus marking Haworth as one of the few single-zone residential communities in the state of New Jersey. They demanded now a new minimum to a lot of 100 foot frontage and a 10,000 square foot area, further showing the vision that Haworth had been so fortunate as always to have in its public officials. Their demands curtailed the revolution that might have taken place between the old settlers, intent on insuring the quiet of their

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suburban retreat, and the newcomers, who could have been grateful for even less of a blessing than a quarter-acre piece of country real estate.

When William Wilson, elected mayor in November 1946, took over the bark of state assisted by Paul Bahler, Mortimer Drum, Douglas McEachron, Fred Knarre, I. A. Carlson, Ross Henninger, George Kruge, Carl Steinmetz, the uppermost challenge was that of keeping afloat. So the harbor of a safe economy was steadily kept within range. The 1947 tax rate figure of \$6.38 measured against the 1907 figure of \$1.36 for every \$100 assessed valuation, gave an indisputable indication of Haworth's growing stature. However, local needs were more numerous and more demanding than formerly so that \$41,674.50 of the total receipts raised by taxation went immediately into local consumption. Assessed valuation rose to the millions and the population figure to 1500. This figure showed almost double that of 1925 when the Borough came to its majority.

Since the root of the whole Bergen County problem lay in the flower of its runaway growth, the Haworth Mayor and Council were wise to begin their concern with an answer in added recreational facilities. In the membership of the American Legion they found the heart for a generous response and Memorial Field, eight acres at the north end of Whitman Street at the northeast corner of the Borough, was

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obtained. It was dedicated on May 30, 1947. There, the Legion headed by Lewis Voight 3rd conducted an impressive service with addresses by William Wilson, Mayor, and by Henry Kauffman, School Principal. Audience singing was led by Richard Houghton, Jr., one of the young baritone artists raised in the Borough; the Post's Ritual Team, representing one hundred forty-four members, consecrated their comradeship by declaring this field "a place of honor" in memory of their comrades who had given their lives in their country's service in World War II—Robert Vincent Brosmer, Bernard Justin McClain, John Lee Wissing, Jr. These fine young men would have been pleased in this sort of a sports arena for their home town. In 1954, Memorial Field was expanded to twenty-five acres for games, contests and recreation by neighbors for whose liberties these young soldiers had fought!

A second answer to the problems engendered by a great influx of new residents was given by the Municipal Library by making a move to more commodious quarters so that a larger supply of books could be housed and distributed. The move, which was the fourth for the Library, was, as an interesting coincidence, back to its original home in the building at the corner of Haworth Avenue and Terrace Street. Although in 1912, thirty-five years previous, it had occupied only one small corner, it now expanded to

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use two-thirds of the complete first floor, i.e., the whole of the section originally partitioned for store use. Under the able handling of Ruth Thornton, Librarian, successor to Caroline Renier, the shift was quickly expedited and an Opening Reception was given to the public on April 15, 1947. Townspeople were gratified both with the larger floor space and with the increased shelving accommodations. Immediately a committee began work on plans for compiling a Reference Section, for which there had never before been space, and a larger more complete junior department, both very much needed in the face of the youthful citizenry crowding into the school.

The press of the new citizenry as a whole within the Borough brought the officials face to face with the fact that by 1948 there had been amassed a considerable quantity of borough-owned property, acquired through tax lien foreclosures and that it would be a further wise move to appoint a special committee which could suggest methods of using this town real estate in a manner consistent with Haworth's high quality character. This committee consisted of F. J. Blume, chairman, B. P. Phyfe, Robert Murray and Victor DeTroy. Their survey and study was helpful, contributive to future planning.

A further 1948 circumstance illustrated the importance of Haworth in the scheme of Bergen County for Charles C. Littlefield was appointed Chairman of

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the County Planning Board, an honor that Littlefield well deserved, for during his incumbency on the Haworth Board he had shown a quick aptitude for interpreting trends and for foreseeing coming developments. His essential personal forthrightness made him exceedingly popular and his death in 1954 brought state-wide regret.

On Armistice Day, November 11, 1948, at the Borough Hall an observance was held for the dismantling and removal of the Borough's Honor Roll which had been erected in 1943 under the direction of the Servicemen's Committee. There were addresses by John Larsen, American Legion Commander and by William Wilson, Mayor. The Choral Society, recently organized by Paul LaRue, presented choral selections under the baton of Robert Noland, Director; and Mrs. F. W. Schmidt, representing the Servicemen's Committee, placed the spade in the ground to lift out the roster bearing the 192 names. The nameplates were now given to the individuals or their families and the Station Park again assumed a façade of unadorned green lawn.

Across the lawn, at the railroad station two improvements were effected—the elimination of the sign HAWORTH garishly spelled out in plants, and the installation of a platform on the west side of the tracks for the further convenience and safety of the passengers.

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Improvement being the order of the day, the Reo fire truck, so up-to-date in the mid-'20s, was consigned, in the late-'40s, to the Borough Garage to be used only as auxiliary equipment. But duration is not a test for worth nor discard a proof of failure. Uses are outgrown, like children's clothing! The request for new quarters for the 35-year-old postoffice to be more commensurate with the demands upon it was voiced but apparently not heard by the Federal government. However, the George Grime building, opposite the station, was torn down and replaced by Frank Corkum's handsome white cement garage. A five-year fight happily brought to an end by a victory for the Zoning Board of Adjustment!

Through the decade of the 1940s the women of both churches were concentrating their most steadfast efforts on increasing their building funds. Their dreams were not to be realized until the 1950s but it was the preparatory foundation work of group and individual fund-raising which brought the fulfillment. The work was led by Mrs. Patrick Gabriele, Mrs. Gerald Garland, Mrs. Eric Elmquist, and Mrs. Edward O'Brien, in the Rosary Society; and in the Woman's Aid Society, it progressed under the able guidance of the presidents, Mrs. David Hall, Mrs. Paul Bahler, Mrs. Egges Das, Mrs. Jacob Roessler, and Mrs. William Wright, Jr.

Recreational activities were well handled under

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the chairmanship of Allen Strand and a second play area, Valley Road Field, was added in 1948. However, since its situation was on borrowed land, it had to be given up later when the property was demanded for a home development project. During 1948 several special recreational events were sponsored—a Window-Decorating Contest at Hallowe'en, an Egg Hunt at Easter, and a Talent Show in the spring. This enlarging program interested a group of girls who instituted "A Girls' Club" (Lynette Birkins, President). Their work has been so phenomenal that from eight members, the membership has risen to sixty-eight (Barbara Korker, President).

As 1949 commenced, it was realized how successfully all the Borough Departments had been flourishing, not the least the Department of Public Works which was responsible for more than twenty-two miles of improved roads, the collection and disposal of garbage, ashes and waste, snow removal and the maintenance of parks and parkways, tennis courts and Borough Fields. E. Jahnes had been foreman. The Fire Department, grown larger under the able stewardship of Horace Wheeler, Jr., Homer Stoughton, Lincoln Schastey, and Harold Emrich, who had been, as well, President of the Fire Company and Trustee of the New York and New Jersey Company, is now headed by Charles E. Dell. The Board of Health composed of five members, with Arthur

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Stewart as president, (Alfred Meyers served many years in this capacity and remains a veteran member) not only enforced local health regulations but also held public meetings for the discussion of pertinent questions. The Shade Tree Commission which had gained impetus under the eight-year chairmanship of P. T. Shade, now under guidance of Mrs. Paul Stewart, repaired hundreds of damaged trees, planting as well twenty-two new Norway Maples, and re-landscaped the Station Park. The Municipal Library which had circulated a total of 11,000 books, a greater number than in any other previous year, had added sixty-eight new members, and had increased the pay of its Librarian, Mrs. Ruth Thornton (appointed in 1945) and its Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Corinne Haynor (appointed in 1946). By appointment of Mayor Wilson, a Trustee Emeritus, Mrs. Helen Phyfe, was added to the Library staff, in recognition of thirty-five years of devoted and uninterrupted service.

One of the most significant events of 1949 took place on February 22, at the Municipal Library when a Reference Section was dedicated to honor the Haworth men and women who had served in World War II. A special program was presented, with the Welcome from P. T. Shade, President; the Presentation from Mrs. Phyfe, Book Committee Chairman; the Acceptance from William Wilson, Mayor; the Rites of

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Dedication from John Larsen, Legion Commander and William B. Bedell, Legion Chaplain. It was an historic event for Haworth and its cultural attainment. Its achievement had been made possible by the wisdom of the council members who earmarked for the Library's use the \$1006 collected from the sale of waste papers, tin, rubber, and fats, contributed by the townspeople during the war and collected by volunteers under the leadership of I. A. Carlson. With this thousand dollar backlog, the Library, through its Book Committee, had been able to purchase encyclopedia, dictionaries, handbooks, guidebooks, histories, biographies, books on Science, the Fine Arts and the Useful Arts, a splendid collection of basic reference material. Bookplates for the Memorial Section were especially designed by Allen Strand and they were printed and donated by Fred Schmidt. Every book placed in this Memorial Section over the years will carry one of these bookplates to honor both donor and donee. Many beloved Haworthians are remembered in this beautiful tradition.

By 1950, the various committees which had been set up in earlier regimes were functioning at top-level standard—the Board of Health, the Planning Board, the Recreation Committee, the Local Assistance Committee, the Citizens' Advisory Committee, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. By 1950, a new Parish House for the Congregational Church, long

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anticipated, had been built. It was dedicated on June 18, 1950. Standing south of the church edifice and replacing the old Community House, it afforded new opportunities for Christian education and fellowship. The Woman's Aid Society (Mrs. Harold Cundall, President) was to be congratulated on this achievement which represented years of planning and devoted effort.

Planning and effort have characterized the growing of Haworth. It still wants no industries and no land devoted to any kind of manufacturing uses. It still wants no commercializing of its assets. It is still satisfied to have its economy based almost entirely on employment in New York City or other nearby communities. It is still confident that it can pay the cost of its industry-free, beauty-accented existence. The appearance of the highway market, the large shopping center and the low-overhead store has been a spur to continue Haworth as solely residential. In this way it is relieved of two of the biggest headaches of modern life, town-jammed shopping, and the parking problem.

Motor-minded New Jersey residents are grateful that the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway have become realities before too many problems of traffic and parking got in the hair of the Bergen County town-fathers, and before too many puzzlers of how to get where became \$64,000 ques-

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tions for Bergen travelers. Approaches and exits still harass both travelers and residents as much as how to find the secluded spot. Old landmarks have disappeared as garden apartments, store centers, and a new streamlined, functional architecture rises to thwart former memories!

The great number of families coming to the Borough in the '40 to '50 decade—the total population in 1950 had reached 1685—sounded an insistent warning to the Borough which now greeted its thirteenth mayor, J. Douglas McEachron, 1951-1955. A warning that there must be increased school facilities. A warning that a new modern building must be ready for occupancy soon. A warning that a plan must be on the earliest agenda. The council consisted of I. A. Carlson, George Kruge, Jr., Paul Bahler, Clifford Parsells, Karl Rice, Carl Steinmetz, Paul LaRue, and Nelson Haynor.

The year 1951 began auspiciously, with new organizations making their first contribution to Haworth's civic and church life—an Auxiliary to the Holy Name Hospital (Mrs. Laurence Leary, President); the Community Chest of Haworth (Karl Rice, Director); a Ladies' Auxiliary of the Fire Company (Mrs. Lewis Voight 3rd, President); the Little League Baseball, under Robert Sypher, Jr. and Joseph Duffy; the Co-Weds of the Congregational Church, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Downe; and the Parents'

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Council of the Public School (Mrs. Mortimer Drum, leader)—a group demonstrating that Haworth is not resting on its laurels but is going forward to meet new needs and to furnish new outlets for civic endeavor.

Haworth has had many friends throughout its life, some to devote their services, others to devote their money, many to devote both. Among the various friends were Charles and Bess Paulson, who although never Borough residents, were for many years allied with the White Beeches Golf and Country Club. Mr. Paulson was one of the Club's most generous presidents. In 1952, he and his wife, in appreciation of their pleasant associations with Haworth and the Club, presented a gift of dogwood trees to line Sunset Avenue around the spaces of the golf course. Hundreds of these white-blossomed trees, flowering in the spring, colored with red berries in the autumn cannot help but be a token of affection that will express, in unspoken terms of beauty, what many Haworth admirers feel deeply in their hearts. On May 18, 1952 this gift of dogwood trees was appropriately dedicated.

As growth and development were pressing in on the Borough and new neighborhoods were springing up, the effects were touching all areas. In particular, the churches felt the influx. The Sacred Heart Parish, greatly augmented, was elevated from the status of

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mission to that of a parochial church and a resident priest, Father Kinsella was appointed. The Congregational Church, now crowded to capacity, called a resident minister, Earle McCullough, to replace Elwood Erickson. Dr. Erickson had served the congregation faithfully during the war years when Reverend Fred B. Eutsler had enlisted in the Army as Chaplain. He had come from Montclair every Sunday morning for preaching, giving unselfishly of his time and his talents to the benefit of the worshipers, making a contribution not unlike that of Dr. Walton of the early days.

Increases were marked in the Woman's Club, reaching its maximum membership in 1954. Through the war and post-war periods, it had had hard sledding, but under the capable management of Mrs. George Holman, Mrs. Walter Pearman, Mrs. R. H. Angus, Mrs. Edward O'Brien, it had given itself wholeheartedly to the war prosecution, even with a greatly reduced membership. With Mrs. Walter Erb's term, 1948-1950, new life sprang up, more departments were activated, so that through Mrs. Decker's and Mrs. Vervlied's presidential terms, the Club's program attracted wider attention. In 1955, the president is Mrs. Edmund Colgan, successor to Mrs. John Pascher. The membership grosses one hundred forty-one.

Property for a Parochial School to face Park Street,

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backed by Maple Street and within the radius of Ivy and St. Nicholas Avenues, was procured in 1954, a project to the great credit of Father Kinsella. Building plans are as yet in abeyance, so also are building plans for an Episcopal Church near Knickerbocker Road, which will serve the complete Diocese.

The continuing increases in the number of children needled the Board of Education to build that promised new school building. Half sessions were liked by neither parents, pupils, nor teachers and while taxpayers were loath to build when prices for both material and labor were so high, yet children were more precious than dollars, so ground was finally broken in 1953 and actual work begun on a site directly north of the 1924 building.

As these evidences of readjustments following war results were seen, other signs of post-war conditions were also noticeable in the neighborhood. Particularly prominent were the antennae for the new television sets which were being installed. So T.V. viewing became, overnight, one of the favorite indoor sports! Women became fight fans, everybody took a renewed interest in baseball, children learned an added vocabulary based on Roy Rogers, Walt Disney and Davy Crockett, and when the political conventions were drawing crowds in Chicago for both Democrats and Republicans, the living rooms furnished with television sets drew their own en-

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thusiastic rallying audiences, night after night.

The growth of Haworth was in line with the picture, the length and breadth of Bergen County. Homes, factories, stores were under construction in every section. Schools, churches, all kinds of organizations were expanding, municipal budgets stretched. Everywhere one looked the face of the land seemed to be changing, not only the profile of the land, but the whole aspect of the people. Their dress was becoming less formal—women in slacks, men in Bermuda shorts on public streets! No hats, flat-soled shoes! And everybody with a brand-new automobile, power-steered and duo-colored! There was in the people a new and different spirit, a psychological attitude that said, in so many words, that having been uprooted by the war, they were accustomed to a greater degree of mobility, that they could leave the cities, that they could pull up stakes and settle in new locales, that travel was no hazard and that economic improvement could be enjoyed in a pay-as-you-go fashion. It proved, in a way, that the material impact of prosperity had brought with it a new scale of social values!

As the McEachron regime went into high gear, it saw ahead the possibilities both of advancement and of frustration. Even yet, money did not grow on trees and it could be easy for the Borough to get out on a limb! Where a quart of ice cream in 1900 cost thirty

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cents, in 1954, it cost one dollar; where a housewife of fifty years ago knew the cuts of meat and how to select them, todays housekeepers neither knew nor cared. They were willing to let the butcher do it or better yet, they selected a package that was all wrapped up. The "all wrapped up" feature appealed in all categories, and it harassed the town governing authorities with many nervous jitters to select and "wrap up" services to the approval of the public.

Before the McEachron regime closed, the new school building had become a reality, opening in the spring of 1954, just in time for the fine spacious auditorium to be used for the festive celebration of Haworth's Golden Anniversary. This milestone was a happy event for Haworth. Frank Hennessy, Borrough Attorney, was chairman of the program, with Victor DeTroy, Kathryn Angus, Bessie Crocker, Peter Henderson, Hazel Moody, John Murphy, Vincent Smythe, Peer Wedvick, William Welch assisting. At the Friday evening affair (May 21st), Mayor McEachron and Congressman Osmers gave addresses, Robert Noland's Choral Society, in old-time costumes, entertained with Gay Nineties selections, and John Bullard, of Syracuse, New York (son of William and Sara) presented slides of the 1904 Haworth alongside those of the 1954 Haworth. It was apparent that Haworth trees for the third time were proving their worth, for in them one saw the

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greatest visual evidences of the Borough's growth. On Saturday, a gala parade, inclusive of some twenty organizations represented by beautiful "floats", passed through the town in review. And in the evening, on Terrace Street, many of the young and old participated in a well-attended Block Dance and the happy carnival spirit extended into the night. Haworth at fifty years still young and gay!

A welcome anniversary gift of an ambulance and First Aid Emergency Service was made to the Borough by the Fire Company and Fred Knarre, a former Chief now President, assumed the responsibility of instructing and supervising courses in First Aid. A resuscitator was presented by the Ladies' Auxiliary. And a second anniversary gift—it might well be so called—was the appointment by the Bergen County Planning Board to its membership of a second Haworth citizen, Edwin Emrich, thus to assure Haworth its dominant position in future planning and zoning. If Haworth is to deserve as much, it cannot afford to be lax in its standards.

A corporation consisting of members of the White Beeches Club was organized in 1950 to purchase the leased land of fifteen holes used by the Club for approximately \$170,000. A small group of members underwrote this sum and Frederick W. Schmidt became President of the White Beeches Realty Corp. and set a program of paying off this indebtedness in

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five years. With the spirit and wholehearted cooperation of all the members this was accomplished by 1955.

The golf grounds, which include a fine swimming pool, built in 1953, can now bring summer sports within home radius, an asset to community friendliness, which it is hoped will never be sacrificed.

That Haworth has considered the future in its many phases has kept it free of the chaos that in the mid-'50s has imperiled many suburban communities, and yet its very understanding of the conflicting elements involved drives home the urgency to step ahead with new ideas and new approaches, not forgetting the basic foundations upon which it was built. That Haworth yet remains a unique community as well as a typical one may well be illustrated by the fact of its having been selected for a story in *The New York Herald Tribune* of Sunday, May 1, 1955, as a "little bit of heaven" for a Brooklyn family recently moved here. It spoke of its area, 2.1 square miles, its population, 2824 and its tax-rate, \$11.30 for each \$100 of assessed valuation.\* It mentioned its split-level homes, its outdoor fireplaces, its car-pools, its new Regional High School, but what it emphasized was that intangible something about the people, their friendliness, their caring about each other, about that spontaneous answer that will come from

\*This tax rate figure must be considered in the light of the fact that Bergen County valuation is low, the converse of the situation in New York City.

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each resident, new or old regarding that outsider's innocent question, why doesn't Haworth get itself some industry. "Industry? No, we want this place to stay just as it is."

A sore in Haworth Beautiful has been the area between the railroad tracks and Valley Road, first occupied by a Concrete Block Plant at the turn of the Century and later to become a Coal Yard and Pit after World War I. An appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to permit an enlarged business for Oil Storage and Trucking was at first approved. After a minority report was submitted by Frederick W. Schmidt protesting the expansion and after he called it a threat to the children of Haworth and the character of the Community, the Mayor and Council overrode the variance and supported the Schmidt viewpoint. Here now in 1955 plans are on the drawing board for twelve home sites on this property and the final abandonment of all commercial use. Now across the road is Valley Court, and other single homes on acre plots. Here too, across Valley Road is the beautiful new Haworth School which could not have been, if this land was still coal, concrete, soot and trucks. Vision of the Quarter Century.

This answer is not surprising. Industry as a part of Haworth life has never had any lure. Business enterprises, even small ones, have taken second place. Commercialization in all its ramifications has been

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frowned on. Yet there has been an unpretentious advancement in answering community needs. The grocery business has been first, both in point of time and of importance. Realtors and builders have both thrived, operating from their own residences. The Terrace Street section is the business area. Where Charles Olson had a stationery store next to the post-office which he bought from Mr. Peske, Frank Osmers had a real estate office for the first year after his return from his war service in the Pacific theatre. When Osmers resumed his political career, his office became the showroom for Mrs. Hille's antiques. Following Mrs. Hille, Jack Geraghty ran a second-hand furniture business here. Where Mr. Yeger had a small grocery business and a delicatessen, a shoe repair shop and a barber shop had their turn. The Sam Kaufmann tailor shop, for twenty years an important addition, was sold by Sam's widow to Bob Schaible. Joe Guarino's widow continues operation of the excellent Haworth Market and William Getz, at the south end of the street at a former library location, is the present proprietor of a hardware business. In 1955, George and Marion Dunn purchased the north end of the Contant building\* and opened a smart new retail liquor establishment. In so doing they separated the combined businesses which they

\*This building was erected by John M. Contant, realtor, when he developed the Maple Street section, making it one of the attractive areas of the Borough.

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formerly operated, thus giving the children of Haworth the opportunity to have a soda and buy a piece of candy in the "Country Store" atmosphere, which the new Haworth Stationery Shop, run by Lewis Rhodes, now affords. Altogether it is only a small total of business, yet each has made a contribution. And all without industrial fanfare.

In spite of other lures, customs of merchandising have kept to the theory that the customer must be pleased. And not only pleased but followed! This is what has been happening in Bergen County, now that the 20th century goes into high speed. This is what the Bergen Mall and Garden State Plaza plan to do for the public—bring trade within easy distance of Bergen's front doorsteps. Bergen Mall will be a sixty million dollar shopping center along Route 4 in Paramus, complete with retail stores, service shops, medical center, even recreational areas. And the Garden State Plaza will be like unto it! No need for tomorrow's shopper to consider going to New York City. It is a very short drive to Paramus! But for the Haworth commuter, that's a different matter, and at the moment, he has one great worry—whether there will be New York passenger trains stopping at his station in these coming years.

Even as the West Shore Railroad in the late 19th century opened the door to happier, more extensive living in Haworth, now in the mid-20th century,

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it can close that door with a discontinuance of its passenger-train and its ferry service. Despite the decline in the use of the railroad because of buses and private cars and businesses coming to the suburbs, there are enough commuters who would find it distasteful to live in a town which had no passenger-train outlet. Despite the favors which transportation has proffered to Bergen County in general, and to Haworth in particular, a question of transportation again holds a key that can unlock the plan of the future. That the drama of expansion in Bergen County finds its climax in the "flowering" for which the 17th century planted the seeds seems an irony of fate. A fate which is never certain yet always pressing. A fate which men like the 17th century pioneers, men of "thrift, industry and faith", can meet, and conquering, accept.

"Is the golden fleece that awaits us some kind of new freedom for growth?" Anne Morrow Lindbergh asks in *Gift From the Sea* (published in 1955). It may well be asked by today's young citizens who look with misgiving to the future. They may not recognize their Borough in 2004, even as the few who knew it intimately in 1904 found it astoundingly "different" in 1954. Yet, paradoxically the same—the Haworth of friendliness and beauty, of keen rivalries, worthy aims and distinctive citizenry. Neither daily helicopter service nor buses traveling on cement road-

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beds long since discarded by railroads, neither an elevated section to Route 4 to lessen the need of West Shore trains nor a more self-sufficient city with atomic-generated utilities should be able to destroy the basic quality of character and culture with which Haworth began. So long as "the people" will it that way! People not property, citizens not circumference, give the world its breath and its breadth.

Haworth has come a long way since 1885. If its face is not careworn, it is at least wrinkled! Yet when it looks back to Haworth, England for which it was named, it can realize that Age is relative and that "abundance of life" is a matter of spirit! Where in 1885, the Westervelt farmhouse stood, encompassed by fields and trees, Haworth Manor now sprawls from Schraalenburgh Road to Knickerbocker Road, a vast acreage of new ranch type homes. The old Ackerman-Oren homestead now looks out, in every direction, not to cultivated fields but to a succession of new homes, most of them built after 1940. The Wetmore-Acken homestead faces a new development on Hardenburgh Avenue and while "The Grange" is still present to the west, the view north and south is dotted with homes. The Opdyke Plot is no longer unoccupied but rather, crammed with a group of houses built in the early 1900s. The Kipp Farm, on Lake Shore Drive, finds itself not in the midst of productive open farmlands, but in the midst of cultivated "Schaefer's Gardens",

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a fishing area, and a line of modern houses. The Vanderbeek property not only has neighbors along Schraalenburgh Road, where formerly only trees stood, but it has neighbors to the west situated on the Valley Road. The Charles Mount Farm and Cope-land Tract boast two large school buildings as well as a settlement of new homes. The John D. Phyfe property stretches across Valley Road homes, the Congregational Church and Parish House to the Terrace Street stores, across the tracks to a group of homes whose owners never heard of the "Old Mill". The Zabriskie farmhouse looks south to a Dumont development of home sites piled high on top of one another, sees repeated rows of homes on its west border, and awaits the completion of "Haworth Gardens", an imminent intrusion of its privacy on the east.

Thus the farms which met the wand of the developer as a new century was born, now as the century passes its half-way point, brace themselves for further encroachments of the bulldozer. The Automobile Age has graduated into the Atomic Age! No one in 1904 when Haworth became a borough had any conception of a bulldozer, or of anything more powerful than a steam-shovel, or had little knowledge of the intricacies of a motor, to say nothing of the enigmas of an atom. But Time demands new tools to meet new situations. So, too, Time brings new faces to crowd out

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the old. Nevertheless, the heritage of the Past becomes the springboard for the Present to go forward fearlessly to the unknown of the Future. Go forward, Haworth, to a Future worthy of your Past!

The lifespan of three score years and ten has been run. New lifeblood comes to refresh the old—A, B, AB, O—but Haworthians, all! For indeed it seems that very quickly the man or woman who wants to belong to Haworth finds the task that needs doing and does it. The good citizen bringing his talents to the use of his community!

Note Dorothy Pearman's clever rhyming of satiric skits, Leslie Tillinghast's sparkling wit, Verda Lynn's quality-toned singing, James Tobin's expert book-knowledge, Virginia Keyes' skillful short-story writing, Robert Noland's musicianship, Karl Rice's good judgment on the Council, Eugene Cole's artistry in mural painting.

Note, too, Mr. Peter Henderson's storehouse of historical information, Mrs. Robert McFall's scholarliness, Mrs. Joseph Scott's administrative ability, Mrs. C. V. Carlson's professional piano playing, Mr. Vincent Smythe's fine art techniques.

Mrs. Helen Emerson is president of the Library Trustee Board, Mrs. J. J. Walls is president of the Rosary Society, Mrs. Lester Greason is president of the Woman's Aid Society, Mr. E. F. McClain is commander of the American Legion, Mr. Walter Hartmeyer is

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president of the Congregational Church Board of Trustees, Mr. Joseph Turino is president of the Men's Club, Mr. Howard Moody is president of the Board of Education, Mrs. Barbara Wissing Shaw is postmistress and Mr. Carl Steinmetz is mayor.

Add to these Mr. John Cole as president of the Choral Society, Mr. Paul Bahler as chairman of the Civil Defense Council, Mr. Frank Dorr as chairman of the Recreation Committee, Mr. Siegfried Vogt as Building Inspector, and Mrs. Hazel Kits Wires as director of the North Jersey Art School. Mrs. Wires' paintings are often lent to the Municipal Library for exhibition and she is well-known around Bergen County as a distinguished artist.

That there has been all too little mention of the talents of the men and women who have spent some of their years, at least, in Haworth and have given freely of these talents to the town's development is a regret that can be blamed only on lack of space and not on lack of appreciation. Yet this story cannot end without including a tribute to the poetical genius of Mrs. Una Winterburn Harsen. She has of course done many things besides write poetry, yet it is as a poet that she especially blesses Haworth. It seems a truth that, as she writes, in 1945, in a sonnet, entitled "Act Two" she speaks, at this close of 1955, not for herself, but for her home town, Haworth—

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*"ACT TWO"*

*"Life is not done with me. The sheltered valleys  
Where once I walked with careless step and free  
The pleasant hillsides where the late sun dallies  
Are left behind, and now, ahead of me  
Opens a new and more exacting scene  
Where lonely wastes and barren rocky peaks  
Challenge endurance and the heart must lean  
On hoarded strength to reach the goal it seeks.*

*"Life never will be done. The sun, descending  
Rivals the splendid drama of the dawn,  
And night's dark curtain does not mark the ending.  
The moon and stars appear. The play goes on.  
Nor does life's final scene relinquish me.  
The epilogue lies in Eternity."*





*The text of this book is set in Caledonia, a type face designed by W. A. Dwiggins. The size is 11 point, 3 point leaded. The chapter headings and initials are set in Bank Script.*

*The paper is 75 lb. Curtis Rag, natural, wove.*

*The additional blank pages at the end of book may be used for notes of future interests and events.*





















